

Arguments over rape and incest divide abortion opponents

By DAVID CRARY

Even as the anti-abortion movement celebrates the sweeping bans passed in several states, it's divided by a widening rift over whether those prohibitions should apply to victims of rape and incest.

The debate pits those who believe any abortion is immoral against those who worry that a no-exception stance could be harmful to some Republican candidates in upcoming elections. A Gallup poll last year found that 77% of Americans support exceptions in cases of rape and incest.

"There is a media spotlight shining on this issue," said Clarke Forsythe, senior counsel with Americans United for Life. "State leaders need to be prudent and reflect not only on state elections but also national elections, and the pace of change the public might accept."

Continued on Page 3



In this Wednesday, May 22, 2019, file photo, Beck Gerritson, president of Eagle Forum of Alabama, speaks at an anti-abortion rally outside the Capitol in Montgomery, Ala.

Associated Press

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Administration moves to revoke transgender health protection

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Trump administration moved Friday to revoke newly won health care discrimination protections for transgender people, the latest in a series of actions that aim to reverse gains by LGBTQ Americans in areas ranging from the military to housing and education.

The Health and Human Services Department released a proposed regulation that in effect says "gender identity" is not protected under federal laws that prohibit sex discrimination in health care. It would reverse an Obama-era policy that the Trump administration already is not enforcing.

"The actions today are part and parcel of this administration's efforts to erase LGBTQ people from federal regulations and to undermine nondiscrimination protections across the board," said Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, a senior attorney on health care at Lambda Legal, a civil rights organization representing LGBT people.



President Donald Trump delivers a statement in the Rose Garden of the White House, Wednesday, May 22, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the action shows "utter contempt for the health, safety and humanity of women and transgender Americans."

The administration also has moved to restrict military service by transgender men and women, proposed allowing certain homeless shelters to take

gender identity into account in offering someone a bed for the night and concluded in a 2017 Justice Department memo that federal civil rights law does not protect transgender people from discrimination at work. As one of her first policy moves, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos withdrew guidance that allowed students to use bathrooms matching their gender identity.

More than 1.5 million Americans identify as transgender, according to the Williams Institute, a think tank focusing on LGBT policy at the UCLA School of Law. A bigger number — 4.5% of the population — identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT), according to Gallup.

Pushing back against critics, the HHS official overseeing the new regulation said transgender patients would continue to be protected by other federal laws that bar discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age and disability.

"Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect," said Roger Severino, who heads the HHS Office for Civil Rights. "We intend to fully enforce federal laws that prohibit discrimination."

Asked about the charge that the administration

has opened the door to discrimination against transgender people seeking needed medical care of any type, Severino responded, "I don't want to see that happen."

In some places LGBT people are protected by state laws, said Lambda Legal attorney Gonzalez-Pagan, "but what do you say to people living in a state that doesn't have state-explicit protections? Do they move their home?"

Behind the dispute over legal rights is a medically recognized condition called "gender dysphoria" — discomfort or distress caused by a discrepancy between the gender that a person identifies as and the gender at birth. Consequences can include severe depression. Treatment can range from sex-reassignment surgery and hormones to people changing their outward appearance by adopting a different hairstyle or clothing.

Many social conservatives disagree with the concept. "Sex is not subjective, it is an objective biological reality," Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, said in a statement supporting the Trump administration's move. The proposed rule will ensure that federal law "isn't used as a vehicle to advance transgender or abortion

politics," he said.

Under the Obama-era federal rule, a hospital could be required to perform gender-transition procedures such as hysterectomies if the facility provided that kind of treatment for other medical conditions. The rule was meant to carry out the anti-discrimination section of the Affordable Care Act, which bars sex discrimination in health care but does not use the term "gender identity."

The proposed new rule would also affect the notices that millions of patients get in multiple languages about their rights to translation services. Such notices often come with insurer "explanation of benefits" forms. The Trump administration says the notice requirement has become a needless burden on health care providers, requiring billions of paper notices to be mailed annually at an estimated five-year cost of \$3.2 billion.

The American Civil Liberties Union served notice it expects to challenge the rule in court when it is final. Louise Melling, ACLU deputy legal director said the potential impact could go beyond LGBT people and also subject women to discrimination for having had an abortion.

That's because the proposal would remove "termination of pregnancy" as grounds for making a legal claim of sex discrimination in health care, one of the protections created in the Obama years. Abortion opponents had argued that the Obama regulation could be construed to make a legal argument for federal funding of abortions. UCLA legal scholar Jocelyn Samuels, who oversaw the drafting of the HHS transgender anti-discrimination rule under Obama, said that rule reflected established legal precedent that transgender people are protected by federal anti-discrimination laws.

"This administration has manifested its intent to roll back that well-considered understanding in every context," she said. □

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There's potential for even more division.

The Federalist, an online magazine influential in conservative and anti-abortion circles, ran an article this week by two abortion opponents suggesting that women who induce their own abortions should be prosecuted for murder. The position is at odds with the pro-women rhetoric of leading anti-abortion groups.

"We're 100% percent against prosecuting women," said Kristi Hamrick, spokeswoman for Students for Life of America.

Divisions over rape-and-incest exceptions have existed within the anti-abortion movement for years, but have become more apparent as several states in the South and Midwest enacted tough bans on abortion.

Only the ban in Georgia includes an exception for victims of rape or incest — and then only if the woman files a police report first. Measures enacted in Alabama, Ohio, Kentucky, Mississippi and Missouri do not contain those exceptions, nor does a measure nearing final approval in Louisiana.

Alabama's ban is the toughest: Performing an abortion at any stage of pregnancy would be a felony punishable by up to 99 years or life in prison. The only exception would be when the woman's health is at serious risk.

Some Republicans in Alabama's GOP-controlled Senate, as well as minority Democrats, were enraged when an exemption for rape and incest was removed without a roll call

vote. The flare-up prompted a five-day postponement before final approval came on May 14.

Emboldened by the bans, 17 anti-abortion leaders sent a letter Wednesday to Republican National Committee chairwoman Ronna McDaniel requesting a meeting and urging the GOP to explicitly oppose exceptions for rape and incest.

The signatories included Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life, the Rev. Frank Pavone, director of Priests for Life, and activist Ryan Bomberger, the son of a woman who was impregnated by a rapist but opted against having an abortion.

"We understand that issues like rape and incest are difficult topics to tackle," the letter said. "Nevertheless, it is our view that the value of human life is not determined by the circumstances of one's conception or birth."

McDaniel, in reply, described the GOP as "the party of life" and added, "I welcome any discussion about how to protect it." Discussing the bans in an interview with CNN on May 17, McDaniel said, "Personally, I would have the exceptions. ... But we are a party that is a broad tent." President Donald Trump, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky also have distanced themselves from the no-exceptions bans.

"I am strongly Pro-Life, with the three exceptions - Rape, Incest and protecting the Life of the mother," Trump tweeted on May

18. "We must stick together and Win....for Life in 2020. If we are foolish and do not stay UNITED as one, all of our hard fought gains for Life can, and will, rapidly disappear!"

In several state legislatures, debate over the exceptions produced dramatic moments.

Samantha Blakely, 25, a travel industry employee from Birmingham, testified at a hearing on the Alabama ban about her decision to have an abortion after a rape in 2017 resulted in pregnancy. She says ban supporters ignore the difficult situations faced by women like her.

"They have absolutely lost sight of victims," Blakely told The Associated Press. "There are blinders on, to block out victims of rape and incest."

If the new law had been in effect when she was raped, Blakely said, she would have done anything to end the pregnancy — possibly including suicide.

"I knew I would not be emotionally or mentally or financially stable enough to give that child what they needed," Blakely said. "And I didn't know exactly how dangerous my rapist was at the time. ... I knew he would try to somehow stay in my life and use that child to control me. And the thought of those things, I'd rather be dead."

In South Carolina, where the legislative session ended before a proposed abortion ban could be passed, there was bitter debate over whether to include an exception for rape and incest.

GOP state Rep. Nancy Mace objected angrily



Protesters for women's rights hold a rally on the Alabama Capitol steps to protest a law passed last week making abortion a felony in nearly all cases with no exceptions for cases of rape or incest, Sunday, May 19, 2019, in Montgomery, Ala.

Associated Press

after a fellow Republican lawmaker passed out a flier suggesting that a rapist who impregnates his victim should be referred to as a "sperm donor."

After Mace proposed adding the exceptions to the bill, another GOP colleague protested, while referring to rape in a way that appeared to diminish its seriousness as a violent crime. "The question is whether another life should be taken because of a bad act," said Rep. John McCravy told fellow lawmakers.

In arguing for the exemption, Mace had shared her own story of being raped, one of several female lawmakers to do so amid the heated state abortion debates.

The abortion bill eventually passed the House with the rape-and-incest provision included, but did not get traction in the South Carolina Senate.

Stephen Schneck, a retired political science professor at the Catholic University of America, personally opposes abortion but believes most Americans have a nuanced view — favor-

ing neither Alabama-style bans nor unrestricted abortion access at any phase of pregnancy.

"Politically, promoting the all-or-nothing positions makes sense for fundraising and mobilizing activists on both sides," he said via email. "But it also makes it impossible for the country as a whole to come together on the issue."

None of the abortion bans enacted this year has taken effect. All are expected to be blocked by federal courts, with ban supporters hoping appeals might lead to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The recent Federalist article, by Georgi Boorman and James Silberman, took aim at the growing interest in do-it-yourself abortions, in which a woman could receive the abortion drug misoprostol by mail and terminate a pregnancy without involvement of a medical professional.

The authors called for total abolition of abortion, so that "the murder of an unborn boy or girl will be treated exactly the same as the murder of a toddler or older child." □

GOP conservative temporarily blocks \$19B disaster bill

By ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House GOP conservative blocked a long-overdue \$19 billion disaster aid bill Friday, complaining it leaves out money needed to address the migrant crisis at the border and extending a tempest over hurricane and flood relief that has left the measure meandering for months.

The move came a day after the measure flew through the Senate despite a Democratic power move to strip out President Donald Trump's \$4.5 billion request for dealing with a migrant crisis on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Texas Rep. Chip Roy, a former aide to Texas firebrand Sen. Ted Cruz, complained that it does not contain any money to address increasingly urgent border needs. "It is a bill that includes nothing to address the international emergency and humanitarian crisis we face at our southern border," Roy said.

He also objected to speeding the measure through a nearly empty chamber, saying it was important for lawmakers to actually vote on a bill that "spends a significant amount of taxpayer money."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., a key force behind the measure which moved through the Senate with the enthusiastic embrace of Roy's two GOP senators, said the delays have gone on too long. Senate action came after Trump surrendered in his fight with powerful Democrats over aid to hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico.

"Now, after the President and Senate Republicans disrupted and delayed disaster relief for more than four months, House Republicans have decided to wage their own sabotage," Pelosi said. "Every day of Republican obstruction, more disasters have struck, more damage has piled up and more families have been left in the cold."

Democrats said the House might try to again pass the measure next week dur-



In this Jan. 3, 20-19, file photo, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., left, poses during a ceremonial swearing-in with Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, right, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

ing a session, like Friday's, that would otherwise be pro forma. If that doesn't succeed, a quick bipartisan vote would come after Congress returns next month from its Memorial Day recess.

Rep. Donna Shalala, D-Fla., said she was upset at Roy's action. "The fact that one person from a state that is directly affected could object, it's just irresponsible," she said. Texas was slammed by record floods in 2017, though not Roy's San Antonio-area district.

GOP leaders and Trump support the bill, as do some lawmakers who are otherwise some of the chamber's staunchest conservatives, such as Rep. Austin Scott, R-Ga.

"This is a rotten thing to do. This is going to pass," said Rules Committee Chairman Jim McGovern, D-Mass. Hours after Roy blocked the measure, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee launched a digital ad in his district criticizing his move. It depicted a submerged Roy and said he's "keeping Texas families underwater."

Roy won his 2018 election by less than three percentage points. House Democrats' campaign committee considers him a prime target for next year's elections.

The relief measure would deliver money to Southern states suffering from last fall's hurricanes, Midwestern states deluged with springtime floods and fire-ravaged rural California, among others. Puerto Rico would also get help for hurricane recovery, ending a months-long dispute between Trump and powerful Democrats like Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Trump said Thursday that he will enthusiastically sign the bill, which delivers much-needed help to many areas in the country where he performs well with voters.

The House drama came less than 24 hours after the Senate passed the bill by a sweeping 85-8 vote that represented a brush-back pitch by a chamber weary of Trump's theatrics and where some members are increasingly showing impatience with the lack of legislative action.

Trump said he favored the bill even though \$4 billion-plus to deal with the humanitarian crisis involving Central American migrants border has been removed. "I didn't want to hold that up any longer," Trump said. "I totally support it."

Much of the money would go to Trump strongholds such as the Florida Panhandle, rural Georgia and

North Carolina, and Iowa and Nebraska. Several military facilities would receive money to rebuild, including Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, and Tyndall Air Force Base in Northwest Florida.

Disaster aid bills are always ultimately bipartisan, but this round bogged down. And a late-week breakdown on the appropriations panel left important must-do work for lawmakers when Congress returns next month.

After months of fighting, Democrats bested Trump and won further aid to Puerto Rico, the U.S. territory slammed by back-to-back hurricanes in 2017.

Talks over Trump's border request broke down over conditions Democrats wanted to place on money to provide care and shelter for asylum-seeking Central American migrants. Talks were closely held and the opaque process sometimes left even veteran lawmakers in the dark.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., accused Democrats of insisting on "poison pills" that made the talks collapse. But his office wouldn't go on the record to specify what they were. Other Republicans, especially those trying to project a biparti-

san image for next year's campaign, were more circumspect.

"Right now the total dollar amounts are pretty close on border security. Democrats and Republicans are pretty much in agreement about it," said Sen. David Perdue. "We're just trying to work out some detailed language, but we didn't think we could wait any longer to get this done."

In fact, among the reasons for the late-week breakdown was a demand by Hispanic forces and House liberals such as Pelosi ally Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., to insist on a provision to tighten up existing language that tries to block the Homeland Security Department from getting information from the Department of Health and Human Services to help track immigrants residing in the U.S. illegally if they care for migrant refugee children arriving in huge numbers at the border.

All sides agree that another bill of more than \$4 billion will be needed almost immediately to refill nearly empty agency accounts to care for migrants, though Democrats are fighting hard against the detention facilities requested by Trump.

Trump rushed to try to claim credit, too, though his budget office never submitted an official request for the disaster aid. But he talked up the aid in a recent trip to the timber-rich Florida Panhandle, his best region in a state without which it's virtually impossible for him to win reelection.

"Well, we're going to get the immigration money later, according to everybody," Trump said. "I have to take care of my farmers with the disaster relief." □





Dave Young, 17th Judicial District Attorney, center, makes a point while U.S. Attorney Jason Dunn, left, and George Brauchler, 18th Judicial District Attorney, listen during a news conference to announce the arrest of 42 people this week in one of the largest black market marijuana enforcement actions in the history of Colorado Friday, May 24, 2019, in Denver.

Associated Press

Authorities raid 247 Co. homes growing black market pot

By DAN ELLIOTT

DENVER (AP) — Authorities said Friday they raided hundreds of black market marijuana operations in Colorado that flouted the state's cannabis law by growing tens of thousands of plants in Denver-area homes and selling the drugs out of state.

Investigators seized more than 80,000 plants and 4,500 pounds (2,040 kilograms) of harvested marijuana, state and federal prosecutors said at a news conference. Officers raided 247 homes and eight businesses and arrested 42 people in Denver and seven nearby counties.

State law allows up to 12 marijuana plants per residence for personal use, but some of the homes had more than 1,000 and many had hundreds, U.S. Attorney Jason Dunn said.

Colorado and nine other states have broadly legalized marijuana use but it remains illegal under federal law. That has created tension between some state and federal officials.

But George Brauchler, district attorney for the south and east Denver suburbs, stressed the investigation was a joint state-federal operation, not the U.S. Department of Justice imposing its will on Colorado.

"Make no mistake, we

are equal partners in this," Brauchler said.

State and federal officials said the nearly three-year investigation showed that illegal marijuana trafficking mushroomed after voters approved recreational use in 2012.

Dunn said Colorado has become the epicenter for a nationwide black market in marijuana.

Brauchler warned that Colorado is becoming "the wild West of weed." He said the provision in the law that allows small-scale home marijuana cultivation opened the door to big, illegal operations.

Brauchler warned that other states considering allowing home marijuana plants could expect the same but added he was not trying to discourage them from doing so.

"I think states are entitled to do whatever they want," he said. "But they need to know the reality of this."

Mason Tvert, a spokesman for the Marijuana Policy Project, which advocates for decriminalizing marijuana, questioned how prosecutors know that Colorado's law attracted illegal growers.

"Did they conduct a survey of illegal marijuana cultivators to determine why they decided to operate where they did?" he said. □



In this aerial image, homes are inundated with flood waters from the Arkansas River near South 145th West Ave near Highway 51 on Thursday, May 23, 2019, in Sand Springs, Okla.

Associated Press

Bodies in submerged Missouri vehicle bring storm toll to 9

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The bodies of a man and a woman were discovered Friday in a submerged vehicle near the Mississippi River in Missouri, bringing the death toll to nine from storms that have ravaged the central U.S. this week and threaten major flooding through the holiday weekend.

John Reinhardt, 20, and Caitlin Frangel, 19, both of Hazelwood, Missouri, were reported missing May 15. Their bodies were found around 4 a.m. on a flooded rural road that runs along the river at Portage Des Sioux, about 40 miles north of St. Louis.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Trooper Dallas Thompson said an autopsy determined they both drowned. "We believe they went into it in the dark, not knowing the roadway was flooded, and they were unable to get out," Thompson said.

Heavy rain in recent weeks has spurred major flooding in several states. Flooding along the Arkansas River will threaten communities from Tulsa into western Arkansas through at least the holiday weekend, officials said Friday, as water released from an Oklahoma dam combines with additional rain in the forecast.

To control flooding in Tulsa, the U.S. Army Corps of En-

gineers on Friday began increasing the amount of water being released into the river from the Keystone Dam northwest of the city of about 400,000.

"The dam is doing what it is supposed to do. It has maintained the flood to a manageable level," U.S. Sen. James Lankford, R-Oklahoma, said following an aerial tour of the region. The river in Tulsa was just above 22 feet (6.71 meters) Friday, four feet (1.22 meters) above flood stage, and was expected to remain at that level through Tuesday. Riverside residents were urged to leave their homes and at least one oil refinery suspended operations.

"The most disturbing thing that I've heard in the last 24 hours from our first responders are reports of parents letting their kids play in the river," said Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum. "If you're a parent that's letting your kid play in this river right now, you ought to be ashamed of yourself."

Meanwhile, Arkansas officials braced for record flooding as the water moves downstream.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson ordered the state's National Guard to station high-water rescue teams in the western part of the state by Saturday and the Corps of

Engineers warned residents to stay off the river throughout the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

"We hope people are getting to safer areas now," said Aric Mitchell with the Fort Smith, Arkansas, police department.

The Arkansas River is expected to reach 41 feet (12.5 meters) by Sunday near Fort Smith, which is the state's second-largest city with nearly 89,000 residents. That's nearly 20 feet (6 meters) above flood stage and 3 feet (0.9 meters) above the record of 38.1 feet (11.61 meters) set in 1945.

"Nearby business, residences could be flooded ... it's going to be a mess," said National Weather Service meteorologist Pete Snyder. "We've not seen it get this high before. It's a different situation than we've ever seen."

The concerns in Oklahoma and Arkansas follow days of severe storms that exacerbated spring flooding throughout the Midwest and spawned dozens of tornadoes.

More rain is likely through the weekend from western Texas through Illinois, according to weather service meteorologist Matt Mosier with the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma. □

Navy: Sailor contacted Russians, pleads guilty to espionage

By JULIE WATSON
 Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A U.S. sailor has pleaded guilty to two counts of espionage and was sentenced to three years after admitting he took classified information about the Navy's nuclear-powered warships and planned to give it to a journalist and then defect to Russia, officials said Friday.

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Kellogg III wished to publish an expose on waste within the military and admitted he wanted to share the information with Russians, said Jeff Houston of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in an email to The Associated Press.

According to Navy court documents, Kellogg, 26, was in contact with Sevmash, Russia's largest shipbuilding enterprise and only nuclear submarine producer. He admitted he knew releasing the information could degrade the ability of nuclear-powered warships, and therefore cause injury to the United States.

Neither Kellogg nor his lawyers could be immediately reached for comment.

Authorities learned of his plans after arresting Kel-



In this March 5, 2018, file photo, a Vietnamese passenger boat sails past U.S. aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson as it docks in Danang bay, Vietnam.

Associated Press

logg, on Aug. 27 for drunken disorderly conduct at the San Diego airport where he was stopped by a Delta Air Lines employee from boarding a flight to New York City because he was being belligerent, according to court documents.

He had bought a one-way ticket and planned to meet a friend from high school who is a journalist who lives in New York City and told the person he had a big story, according to in-

vestigators and court documents.

Kellogg knew if the information became public, potential adversaries would likely know the capabilities and limitations of the United States' nuclear-powered warships, according to his pre-trial agreement.

Kellogg, who joined the Navy in 2014, was a nuclear electrician's mate with access to classified information relating to the capabilities, operations and maintenance of the Navy's

nuclear propulsion systems. He served aboard the USS Carl Vinson from 2016 to 2018 and said he could draw and explain the majority of the ship's critical nuclear propulsion plant systems from memory, according to court documents.

"This sailor's attempts to disclose classified Navy nuclear propulsion information posed a significant threat to national security and endangered the lives of American service mem-

bers," FBI Special Agent in Charge Garrett Waugh said in a statement.

Kellogg admitted to telling his roommate that he planned to defect to Russia and had searched the Internet for information relating to flights to Moscow, contact information for the Russian Consulate in San Diego, and wrote to an email address associated with Sevmash and called the company six times. It is unclear if the shipbuilder wrote back.

Around the same time, he told a childhood friend that he wanted to get out of the Navy and that I "might go Ed Snowden," referring to the former National Security Agency contractor who exposed U.S. government surveillance programs by disclosing classified material.

Though Kellogg pleaded guilty to two counts of violating the Espionage Act, his military defense attorneys told the judge at Naval Base San Diego before his sentencing that he was not a spy but rather had a drinking problem and may have been suffering from depression.

People who know Kellogg, they said, described him as harmless and someone just trying to get attention. □



The Cooperative Producers Inc. dry fertilizer plant near U.S. Hwy 6 and Showboat Blvd. in Hastings, Neb., burns Thursday, May 23, 2019.

Associated Press

HASTINGS, Neb. (AP) — A lightning strike at a Nebraska fertilizer plant set off a large fire that injured three truck drivers sleeping in the parking lot and destroyed the unoccupied factory, officials said Friday.

The fire was reported about 11:30 p.m. Thursday at the Cooperative Producers Inc. dry fertilizer plant in Hastings, about 160 miles (257 kilometers) west of Omaha. Crews worked most of the night

3 injured in fire that destroyed Nebraska fertilizer plant

and contained the fire just before 4 a.m. Friday.

The blaze forced authorities to close U.S. Highway 6 for several hours. A release from the Adams County Emergency Management office says railroad tracks just north of the plant also were closed for a time before being reopened.

The Nebraska Fire Marshal's office said in a news release late Friday afternoon that an investigation showed the fire was sparked by a lightning strike.

Fire Chief Bob Hansen said no one was in the building when the fire happened.

The injured semitrailer drivers were treated and released from a hospital, the Hastings Tribune reported. No firefighters were injured. Hansen said the plant was already fully engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived. Three other departments from nearby towns were called in to help fight the huge blaze.

"We were utilizing every hydrant we could," Hansen said.

Firefighters considered evacuating nearby mobile homes, but a shift in the wind blew heavy smoke away from them and made evacuation unnec-

essary. Hastings residents with health conditions that could be exasperated by smoke were urged to keep their windows closed and air conditioners off Friday.

"We're waiting for the smoke to clear to use a drone to fly over and see pictures of the inside," Hansen said. The CPI plant opened last year with plans for storage capacity of 42,000 tons of product. The preliminary damage estimate for the building is \$14 million. The damage to products inside the building is estimated at another \$5 million, according to the fire marshal's office. □



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Wisconsin man who kidnapped Jayme Closs gets life in prison

By AMY FORLITI and TODD RICHMOND

Associated Press

BARRON, Wis. (AP) — A Wisconsin man was sentenced Friday to life in prison for kidnapping 13-year-old Jayme Closs and killing her parents after the girl told the judge she that wanted him "locked up forever" for trying to steal her.

Jake Patterson, 21, pleaded guilty in March to two counts of intentional homicide and one count of kidnapping. He admitted he broke into Jayme's home in October, gunned down her parents, James and Denise Closs, made off with her and held her under a bed in his remote cabin for 88 days before she made a daring escape.

Jayme didn't appear at Patterson's sentencing hearing Friday, but a family attorney read her first public statements about her ordeal to Judge James Babler.

"He thought that he could own me but he was wrong. I was smarter," the statement said. "I was brave and he was not. ... He thought he could make me like him, but he was wrong. ... For 88 days he tried to steal me and he didn't care who he hurt or who he killed to do that. He should be locked up forever."

The judge called Patterson the "embodiment of evil" before sentencing him to consecutive life sentences without the possibility of release on the homicide charges. He also ordered Patterson to serve 25 years in prison and 15 years of extended supervision on the

kidnapping count.

"There's no doubt in my mind you're one of the most dangerous men to ever walk on this planet," Babler said.

Patterson sat shaking his head during most of the hearing. Offered a chance to speak, he said he would do anything to take back what he did.

"I would die," he said. "I would do absolutely anything ... to bring them back. I don't care about me. I'm just so sorry. That's all."

The judge read statements that Patterson wrote in jail in which he said he had succumbed to fantasies about keeping a young girl and torturing and controlling her. He started looking for an opportunity to kidnap someone, even deciding he might want to take multiple girls and kill multiple families, according to the statements. Jayme was the first girl he saw after these thoughts entered his mind, he said.

Patterson's attorneys, Richard Jones and Charles Glynn, told the judge that Patterson was isolated and that he overreacted to loneliness. They asked for leniency for Patterson, noting that he had pleaded guilty to spare Jayme and her family from a trial.

According to a criminal complaint, Patterson was driving to work in October when he spotted Jayme getting on a school bus near her rural home outside Barron, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) northeast of Minneapolis.

He decided then that "she was the girl he was going to

take."

District Attorney Brian Wright told the judge that Patterson traveled to the Closs home on two separate occasions to kidnap her but turned back because of activity at her house.

He finally drove to the house during the early morning hours of Oct. 15 dressed in black and carrying his father's shotgun. He shot James Closs through a window in the front door, blasted the lock and moved inside.

He found the bathroom door locked. He broke the door down and discovered Jayme and her mother clinging to each other in the bathtub. He tied Jayme up with tape, then shot Denise Closs in the head as she sat next to her daughter.

He dragged Jayme through her father's blood and out to his car. He threw her in the trunk and drove her to his cabin in Gordon in Douglas County, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) northeast of Barron.

He kept her trapped under a bed using totes filled with weights and hit her with a curtain rod, Wright said.

"He kept her in constant fear, threatening her, telling her things would get worse," Wright said.

Jayme finally escaped on Jan. 10 while Patterson was away. She flagged down a neighbor, who found someone to call police. Patterson was arrested minutes later as he returned to the cabin.

Patterson was also ordered to register as a sex offend-



In this March 27, 2019, file photo, Jake Patterson appears for a hearing at the Barron County Justice Center, in Barron, Wis.

Associated Press

er, which under Wisconsin law may be required both for an actual sex offense or an attempted sexual offense. Details of Jayme's

time in captivity have not been released, and no charges were brought by prosecutors in the county where she was held. □

Feds defer prosecution of Kansas online gamer in hoax case

By ROXANA HEGEMAN

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — A

Kansas online gamer whose dispute over a \$1.50 bet sparked a hoax call that resulted in police shooting a man who lived at his old address has struck a deal with prosecutors that could allow the charges against him to be dropped.

U.S. District Judge Eric Melgren approved on Friday the joint motion for deferred prosecution that had been filed earlier in the day by prosecutors and the attorney for 20-year-old Shane Gaskill of Wichita.

Such agreements typical-

ly result in charges being dropped if a defendant fulfills all its conditions.

The judge deferred court proceedings and discovery during a period ending on Dec. 31, 2020 and ordered Gaskill to pay \$1,000 in restitution, costs and penalties as required under the agreement.

The death of Andrew Finch, 28, in Wichita drew national attention to the practice of "swatting," a form of retaliation in which someone reports a false emergency to get authorities, particularly a SWAT team, to descend on an address. □

Climate change is hot topic in the European Parliament vote

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

LANGEOOG, Germany (AP)

— Hungry tourists stream into the glass-fronted balcony of Michael Recktenwald's restaurant on the German island of Langeoog, with its splendid view of the North Sea and the blue skies above.

The 53-year-old has lived on Langeoog for most of his life, and his wife's family has been there for generations, but Recktenwald fears their children may not be able to stay if the world keeps on warming.

Concerns about climate change have prompted mass protests across Europe for the past year. For the first time, the issue is expected to have a significant impact on this week's elections for the European Parliament.

Recktenwald pointed to the damaged levees protecting the island, which is part of the Frisian Archipelago off the coasts of Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark. Islands like Langeoog are among the regions most vulnerable to the rising sea levels predicted to result from climate change.

"The sea level has already risen and storm surges are getting more violent," he told The Associated Press. "The chain of dunes is being attacked more strongly, endangering our freshwater supply."

A recent opinion poll in Germany showed that climate change has overtaken immigration as the issue voters in the EU's most populous nation are most concerned about. Elsewhere across the EU, climate change also features prominently among the top issues — along with immigration and the economy — ahead of the European Parliament vote that began Thursday and runs through Sunday in all of the bloc's 28 nations.

"In many countries, the climate issue has become increasingly one of the top issues that voters are concerned about when they talk about European issues," said Derek Beach, a political scientist at the Uni-



In this photo taken on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, the old water tower is pictured on the car-free environmental island of Langeoog in the North Sea, Germany.

Associated Press

versity of Aarhus, Denmark. "In Denmark, for example, this year it's really almost the only issue that people are talking about in relation to the European Parliament election."

Teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg inspired a 'Fridays for Future' school strikes movement in her native Sweden that's spread across Europe, bringing tens of thousands to the streets demanding faster action on climate change. The Extinction Rebellion direct action group upended traffic across London for days to press the point. Both cite spiking temperature records and dramatic warnings from scientists as reasons to act now to fight global warming.

Yet what remains an abstract threat to most Europeans has become very real to Recktenwald.

"We're directly affected," he said, walking past beachgoers enjoying the sun from behind the wicker windbreaks that are a signature of German coastal resorts.

Together with eight other families elsewhere in the world and a Scandinavian youth group, the Recktenwalds launched a legal action to force the European Union to set more ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. A court rejected their case

on procedural grounds Wednesday, but the plaintiffs plan to appeal.

In the meantime, Recktenwald — who doesn't belong to any political party — is hoping that European leaders listen to voters who want their governments and the EU to take decisive action against global warming.

Parties that have traditionally championed environmental causes, such as the Greens in Germany, are well-placed to benefit from the growing concern about climate change. The party clocked an unprecedented 19% support in Germany in a survey published last week, overtaking the center-left Social Democrats that are part of Chancellor Angela Merkel's governing coalition.

"We are very optimistic that we will achieve the largest parliamentary group we have ever had in the European Parliament," said Ska Keller, one of two leading candidates for the European Greens.

"The climate issue is now finally on everyone's lips, a subject that we have been credibly promoting for many decades," she added. "We have very concrete proposals for what we want to do against the climate crisis, for the preservation of biodiversity, for the preservation of our en-

vironment."

The Greens had 52 seats in the last EU legislature, making it fourth biggest political grouping, and are expected to gain more of the European Parliament's 751 total seats.

Other parties, too, have been waking up to the issue of global warming.

Merkel's center-right Union bloc has pledged to implement the 2015 Paris climate accord, which aims to keep average temperatures increases worldwide well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) by the end of the century compared to pre-industrial times. But the party, like many others, has hesitated when it comes to backing tough measures scientists say are necessary to drastically curb greenhouse gas emissions, such as adding a climate tax to fossil fuels.

In France, raising gas taxes sparked nationwide protests and created the yellow vest movement for economic justice, whose weekly protests since November, especially in Paris, have often turned violent. That has made other European governments leery of openly backing such a move. Some right-wing parties are attacking the science of global warming in an effort to win voters fearing the economic consequences of combating

climate change.

Experts say the EU as a whole is possibly a better place for making decisions on climate change than its national governments.

"This is probably one of the easiest things for most voters to see something that only Europe can deal with," said Beach.

Still, climate change may seem like a luxury issue for voters in struggling economies such as Italy, he said.

"When your 20-something kids are both unemployed, then you would definitely perhaps be a little bit more concerned about that kind of economic bread-and-butter issue," Beach said.

Uwe Garrels, the mayor of Langeoog, is well aware of the tension between environmental protection and economic prosperity.

The island, a half hour's ferry ride from the German mainland, was poor until tourism brought jobs. Now about 1,800 permanent residents and 2,400 seasonal workers look after more than 10,000 visitors during the summer months. Despite a drought last year, locals are unwilling to give up their lush lawns for fear of spoiling the island's idyllic image.

Garrels suggests that Langeoog, a 20-square kilometer (7.7-square mile) island in the heart of a World Heritage site with car-free streets and clean air, can at least help make visitors more environmentally aware.

"We can't be viewed in isolation to the entire country or the whole EU," he said. "You can't create an oasis of sustainability on Langeoog if that's not the case in the rest of the country."

The climate message is already getting through to voters like Susanne Hasenpflug, who was on a day trip to Langeoog from the mainland.

"It's the main topic when you go out and see friends or go in the pub for a beer," she said. "Even the younger people, they're scared of what the future will bring."

Recktenwald, the restaurant owner, hopes the EU election will spur tougher top-down climate action. □

Terror probe after 'low force' blast in French city of Lyon

Associated Press

LYON, France (AP) — A "low force" blast hit a busy pedestrian street Friday in the French city of Lyon, injuring seven people as it shattered the glass from a refrigerated shop cooler in a bakery, a local official said. France's anti-terrorist office opened an inquiry into the blast and the anti-terrorism prosecutor, Remy Heitz, went to Lyon. The interior minister also was on site, and soldiers secured the area.

France is jittery over a spate of attacks in recent years, some of them deadly, carried out by people ranging from extremist attackers to mentally unstable individuals. Five people were killed Dec. 11 in an attack on the Christmas Market in Strasbourg, in eastern France. The alleged killer, Cherif Chekatt — killed by police — had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group. French media quoted the mayor of Lyon's second



Soldiers of French anti terrorist plan "Vigipirate Mission", secure the area, near the site of a suspected bomb attack in central Lyon, Friday May, 24, 2019.

Associated Press

district, Denis Broliquier, as saying that an image of the man who deposited a sack or suitcase that apparently exploded was captured by surveillance cameras.

Two news TV stations, BFM-TV and CNews, showed a

blurry image of a man on a bicycle that they said was the suspect.

Broliquier, the district mayor, told BFMTV he arrived minutes after the 5:30 p.m. explosion at the bakery chain Brioche Doree in

Lyon's central Presqu'île area, which lies between the Rhone and Saone rivers that run through France's third-largest city.

"What I saw was a refrigerated cooler in the Brioche Doree, whose windows

had been shattered. It was the windows ... that superficially injured the people who were 1, 2 or 3 meters (yards) away," Broliquier said.

"But the fridge itself wasn't that damaged, which means the device had low force," Broliquier said, downplaying the incident. "It's not the apocalypse ... There's no danger. There's no risk."

He said authorities had cordoned off the street but had not evacuated residents. Authorities would not confirm French media reports that the blast was caused by an exploding package. French President Emmanuel Macron called the explosion an "attack" during a live interview about the European Parliament elections that run through Sunday.

The mayor and Macron sent their sympathies to the injured, some of whom were taken to the hospital and others just went home.

May to quit as party leader June 7, opening race for new PM

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Theresa May announced Friday that she will step down as U.K. Conservative Party leader on June 7, admitting defeat in her attempt to take Britain out of the European Union and sparking a contest to become the country's next prime minister.

She will stay as caretaker prime minister until the new leader is chosen, a process likely to take several weeks. The new Conservative leader would then become prime minister without the need for a general election.

Her voice breaking, May said in a televised statement outside 10 Downing St. that she would soon be leaving a job that it has been "the honor of my life to hold."

May became prime minister the month after Britons voted in June 2016 to leave the European Union, and her premiership has been



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May makes a statement outside at 10 Downing Street in London, Friday May 24, 2019.

Associated Press

consumed by the attempt to deliver on that verdict. Now she has bowed to relentless pressure from her party to quit over her failure to take Britain out of the EU on the scheduled date of

March 29. Britain is currently due to leave the EU on Oct. 31, but Parliament has yet to approve divorce terms. "I feel as certain today as I did three years ago that in a democracy, if you give

people a choice you have a duty to implement what they decide," May said.

"I have done my best to do that. ... But it is now clear to me that it is in the best interests of the country for a

new prime minister to lead that effort."

Her departure will trigger a party leadership contest in which any Conservative lawmaker can run. The early front-runner is Boris Johnson, a former foreign secretary and strong champion of Brexit.

Conservative lawmakers increasingly see May as an obstacle to Britain's EU exit, although her replacement will face the same issue: a Parliament deeply divided over whether to leave the EU, and how close a relationship to seek with the bloc after it does.

Pressure on May reached critical point this week as House of Commons Leader Andrea Leadsom quit and several Cabinet colleagues expressed doubts about her Brexit bill.

With her authority draining away by the hour, May on Thursday delayed plans to publish the EU withdrawal bill — her fourth attempt to secure Parliament's backing for her Brexit blueprint. □

Iran's foreign minister in Pakistan amid tensions with US

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Iran's foreign minister lashed out at President Donald Trump on Friday during a critically timed visit to Pakistan amid a simmering crisis between Tehran and Washington and ahead of next week's emergency Arab League meeting called by Saudi Arabia over the region's tensions.

The remarks by Mohammad Javad Zarif were the latest in a war of words between him and Trump. The Iranian diplomat on Friday assailed the American president for his tweet earlier this week warning Iran not to threaten the U.S. again or it would face its "official end."

"Iran will see the end of Trump, but he will never see the end of Iran," Zarif was quoted by Iran's semi-official Fars news agency as saying during a visit to Islamabad.

Tensions have ratcheted up recently in the Mideast as the White House earlier this month sent an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the region over a still-unexplained threat it perceived from Iran. And on Thursday, the Pentagon outlined proposals to the White House to send military reinforcements to the Middle East to



In this photo released by the Foreign Office, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, attends meeting with Pakistani officials at the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad, Pakistan, Friday, May 24, 2019.

Associated Press

beef up defenses against Iran.

The purpose of Zarif's visit to Pakistan, where he held talks with his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi and also Prime Minister Imran Khan, was not made public.

But there has been speculation that Iran is looking to Islamabad and its close

relationship with the Saudis to help de-escalate the situation. In a statement following meetings with Zarif, Khan said "Pakistan was prepared to use its friendly relations in the region to help lower tensions among brotherly countries and promote peace and stability in the region. ... War is not a solution to any prob-

lem."

Zarif has been criticized this week by Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who named him and President Hassan Rouhani as failing to implement the leader's orders over Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Khamenei had claimed the deal had "numerous ambi-

guities and structural weaknesses" that could damage Iran.

Separately, the official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Zarif in Islamabad as warning of anarchy if world powers don't unite to stop what he called U.S. aggression — Iran's official parlance for Washington's pressure on Tehran.

The crisis takes root in the steady unraveling of the nuclear deal, intended to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. The accord promised economic incentives in exchange for restrictions on Tehran's nuclear activities.

The Trump administration pulled America out of the deal last year, and subsequently re-imposed and escalated U.S. sanctions on Tehran — sending Iran's economy into freefall.

Khamenei's criticism of Zarif signaled a hard-line tilt in how the Islamic Republic will react going forward amid President Donald Trump's maximalist pressure campaign.

Iran declared earlier this month that the remaining signatories to the deal — Germany, France, Britain, China and Russia — have two months to develop a plan to shield Iran from American sanctions. □

Afghan police official says blast at Kabul mosque kills 2



A wounded man receives treatment in a hospital after a bomb explosion during Friday prayer on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, May 24, 2019.

Associated Press

By AMIR SHAH
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A bomb exploded during

weekly prayers Friday at a mosque in an eastern part of Kabul, killing two people, including the prayer lead-

er, and wounding 16, officials said.

According to Kabul police chief's spokesman, Basir Mujahid, the bomb was concealed in the microphone used to deliver the sermon. The prayer leader, Maulvi Samiullah Rayan, was the intended target, the spokesman added.

No militant group immediately claimed responsibility but both the Taliban and the Islamic State group regularly stage attacks in the country's capital.

The Kabul neighborhood where the bombing took place is dominated by ethnic Pashtuns, most of whom are Sunni Muslims and who make up the backbone of the Taliban movement.

Meanwhile, a car bombing wounded 12 people late on Thursday in the southern city of Kandahar. Provincial council member Yousaf Younasi said the bombing targeted insurgents from neighboring Pakistan's secessionist Baluchistan Liberation Army.

It was the second attack in recent years to target the group in Kandahar's posh Aino Mina residential area, he said. Last year, a suicide bomber blew himself up there, killing five Baluch separatists, including the mastermind behind the attack last November on the Chinese Consulate in Pakistan's port city of Karachi that killed four people — two police officials and two

civilians.

Pakistan has struggled with the years-long insurgency in Baluchistan where the separatists demand a greater share of the region's wealth and autonomy from Islamabad. The separatist group also claimed responsibility for an attack earlier this month on a luxury hotel in the Pakistani port city of Gwadar on the Arabian Sea. Most of the residents in the hotel were Chinese nationals involved in the development of the port.

Kandahar's provincial police chief, Tadin Khan, said there was no evidence that Baluch insurgents were the target of the explosion, which he said also wounded four children. □



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Kenyan court upholds laws criminalizing same-sex relations

By TOM ODULA
KHALED KAZZIHA

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenya's High Court on Friday upheld sections of the penal code that criminalize same-sex relations, a disappointment for gay rights activists across Africa where dozens of countries have similar laws.

The judges' unanimous ruling in the closely watched case was followed by activists' vows to appeal. Many in Kenya's vibrant gay community had hoped the court would make history by scrapping the British colonial-era laws and inspiring other countries in Africa to do the same.

Activists argue that the laws criminalizing consensual same-sex relations between adults are in breach of the constitution because they deny basic rights. The state should not regulate intimacy between gay couples, they say.

One law punishes "carnal knowledge against the order of nature" and prescribes up to 14 years in pris-



An activist supporting the LGBT community, wearing a rainbow flag, walks past a gathering of Christians opposed to the decriminalization of homosexuality, after a ruling by the High Court in Nairobi, Kenya Friday, May 24, 2019.

on for people convicted of homosexual acts. Another says "indecent practices between males" can bring up to five years in prison.

The laws create an environment of fear and harassment even if they are not

always enforced, activists say. "The issue is violence, discrimination and oppression," one activist, Tirop Salat, said.

The judges, however, said the petitioners had failed to prove how the laws vio-

lated their right to health, dignity and privacy and said the laws do not single out gay people. Kenya has no social pressure to legalize homosexuality, they added.

"Acknowledging cohabi-

tation among people of the same sex, where they would ostensibly be able to have same-sex intercourse, would indirectly open the door for (marriage) of people of the same sex," said the judgment read in part by Justice Roselyn Aburili. Reaction was swift.

"These old colonial laws lead to the LGBT community suffering violence, blackmail, harassment and torture. They devastate people's lives and have no place in a democratic Kenyan society," the Nairobi-based National Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission said after the decision was announced.

Lawyer Paul Muite for the commission, the main petitioner in the case, said they would appeal.

At least half of Kenya's LGBT persons in Kenya have suffered physical and verbal assault, the commission says. Most assaults are not reported because people don't have confidence that police will protect them, activists say. □

Associated Press

HK leader protests over German asylum for dissidents

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's leader summoned the German consul on Friday to complain about Germany granting political asylum to two Hong Kong political activists, in a rare case of diplomatic intervention by the government of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Carrie Lam called the pair bail jumpers who were facing charges including rioting and assaulting police over a violent incident in February 2016.

She said Hong Kong courts would have granted the two a fair trial and Germany had "unjustifiably under-

mined Hong Kong's international reputation in the rule of law and judicial independence." Lam asked David Schmidt to convey "deep regrets and strong objections" to the German authorities.

In interviews with The Wall Street Journal and Financial Times published on Wednesday, Ray Wong Toi Yeung said he and fellow pro-democracy protester Alan Li Tung Sing were granted asylum last year. Germany's Interior Ministry would not give names due to privacy regulations, but confirmed it had granted two people from Hong

Kong asylum last year. Wong and Li are the only dissidents known to have been in Germany seeking protection. Wong told the Journal he chose to reveal his asylum status now in response to a proposed Hong Kong law that would allow criminal suspects to be handed over to mainland China where they would likely not receive a fair trial. That law is seen as part of a drive by Beijing to rein in Hong Kong's freedoms, endangering its independent legal system which it was granted for 50 years after its 1997 handover from British rule. □



Pro-China protesters hold pictures of Hong Kong activists Ray Wong Toi-yeung, right, and Alan Li Tung-sing during a demonstration near the German Consulate General in Hong Kong to against Germany in granting a refugee status for the Hong Kong activists, Thursday, May 23, 2019.

Associated Press

A woman takes leadership of Paraguay's Maka people

By PEDRO SERVIN

MARIANO ROQUE ALONSO, Paraguay (AP) —

For the tiny Maka culture of Paraguay, political authority has passed from father to son for generations even as the band has struggled for survival, its way of life uprooted by war and migration from a vast, isolated countryside to an urban neighborhood near the capital. So the death in February of Andrés Chemei, a widely respected figure who led the group for 40 years, posed a problem. He had no son.

The solution has been at least a small advance for women in Paraguay: Maka leaders chose his widow, Tsiweyenki to be one of the first female chiefs of an indigenous people in the South American country.

"The Maka are respectful of women and in this case we have placed our trust in Chemei's widow," said Yelukin, director of a dance company that performs traditional Maka dances at



Maka indigenous leader-in-training Tsiweyenki, whose Spanish name is Gloria Elizeche, smiles with her sisters Cristina, center, and Estela as they cook in her backyard in Mariano Roque Alonso, Paraguay, Monday, April 29, 2019.

Associated Press

cultural events.

While she still breaks down in tears at times thinking of her late husband, Tsiweyenki expressed thankfulness at her new post. "I feel good because the community

shows me respect," she told The Associated Press in the Maka tongue, speaking through an interpreter.

The 68-year-old Tsiweyenki — known to the Paraguayan state as Gloria Elizeche

— has a warm smile, but a difficult task.

Most of the roughly 2,000 Maka live in a 35-acre (14-hectare) colony in a city bordering the capital, Asuncion. Many live in

wood or block houses and make a living selling bags, bracelets and other handicrafts.

They're also carrying on Chemei's battle to assert ownership of 830 acres (335 hectare) of lands a little way down the Paraguay River where the Maka lived for four decades before flooding forced most to move into town.

Only a century ago, the Maka were largely hunter-gatherers in northwest Paraguay's remote Chaco region. And only a few decades ago, census figures counted their population at less than 1,000.

Chemei had been a link to the Maka's history. The son of a chief himself, he spent time as a boy in the home of a Russian emigre general, Juan Belaieff, who established warm ties with the Maka ahead of the 1932-1935 war against Bolivia and then oversaw their move from the remote Chaco region to lands closer to the capital. □

Climate activists call for action in Latin America

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

Climate change activists in Latin America rallied for action on global warming Friday, heeding a call by Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg to hold demonstrations across the world. In Rio de Janeiro, a small group of students gathered outside the state legislature to deliver a letter dated from the future in which they lamented Brazil's loss of coastline, rainforests and species.

"We, the Brazilians of the future, are also asking you: is there anything more important than protecting life and ensuring a quality future for the next generations? No, there is not," they wrote.

In more than a dozen other cities throughout the country, youth also staged strikes and took to the streets, using the issue to challenge the environmental policies of the far-right government of President Jair Bolsonaro.



Students protest President Jair Bolsonaro's environmental policies in front the state legislature in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Friday, May 24, 2019.

Associated Press

Bolsonaro says excessive regulation has hindered economic development and has moved to strip the environment ministry's authority over water and forestry services.

Last week, his environment

minister questioned the effectiveness of the Amazon Fund created to contain deforestation.

The minister has also called climate change a "secondary issue" and said that agribusiness in Brazil is "un-

der threat."

Meanwhile, in the Venezuelan capital of Caracas, a few dozen protesters explicitly abstained from commenting on politics amid a monthslong standoff between President

Nicolás Maduro and opposition leader Juan Guaidó. Andreina Duffy said protesters were careful not to voice opinions about the conflict between the Venezuelan government and the opposition but were prepared to criticize "whatever government exists" on environmental issues. She said economic hardship had compelled many Venezuelans to consume and waste less, making them more aware of the need to conserve. "Of course, there's still a lot to do," she said.

Her daughter, 7-year-old Victoria Duffy, showed up with a picture of Earth.

"You can make a difference," the poster read.

Venezuelan demonstrators are concerned about the degradation of the El Ávila national park that borders Caracas and whose mountain springs were a key source of water for desperate residents during recent nationwide blackouts. □

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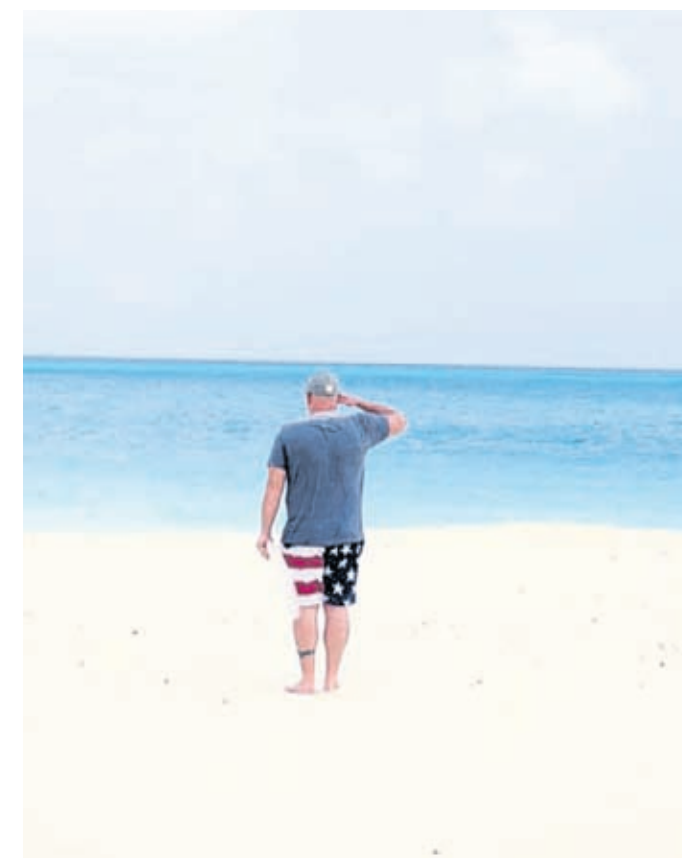
Memorial Day 2019 at Costa Linda

EAGLE BEACH — On Memorial Day morning in 2002 four US armed forces veterans, their friends and families gathered on Eagle Beach at Costa Linda Beach Resort. The purpose of the gathering was to honor all those who had paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country. The simple ceremony has since become an annual event and has welcomed veterans from all nations to take part.

Last year Maureen Nadal who is one of the initiative takers of the event explains why this gathering is important. "All these people gave their lives and service to their country. My late husband did not want this to stop so continuing this is a must-do for me."

The organization is pleased to say that since that first ceremony participation has indeed increased significantly. From the beginning they have attempted to keep the ceremony simple, solemn, and apolitical. They have kept it solemn for obvious reasons, simple because of the ages of some of the vets who might find it difficult to stand in the sun too long, and apolitical because they were/are all visitors in Aruba and understand that the raising of the American flag or the singing or playing of the Stars Spangled banner might offend some island residents. They also soon realized that they had attracted veterans from other nations – Holland, Aruba, and South Africa to mention a few. So in fairness to all, they thought that large national banners and anthems would be inappropriate. However, they encourage participants to wear any uniforms or national symbols they wish to wear.

Veterans will gather on the beach at 10:00 AM May 27, 2019 to form The Detail. The organization asks that viewers leave the area of the beach clear between The Detail and the surf. There will be a call to attention followed by a reading of the poem We Stand by the Sea (anonymous) as a memorial wreath



of flowers will be placed in the surf. There will then be a reading of a verse from The Fallen by R.L. Binyon followed by the playing of Taps and the presentation of arms by the Detail. The Detail will then be dismissed. All those wishing to join on Memorial Day May 27, 2019 are welcomed. They will convene on the beach at 10:00 AM. There will be coffee, juice and donuts provided by the Costa Linda Beach Resort. □



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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island



PALM BEACH — Recently, Marouska Heyliger of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors. The Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the

guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were Darrin and Kim Emperato from New York. The Emperato's love coming to the island for the friendly people, dining and perfect weather.

Heyliger together with the representatives of the Playa Linda Beach Resort presented the certificates to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



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International Caribbean Airlift Conference on St. Maarten

By Bud Slabbaert

ST. MAARTEN — The 4th annual Caribbean Aviation Meetup conference will be held June 11-13 on St. Maarten/St. Martin. The conference is hosted by the tourism authorities of the two sides of the island, and is supported by a number of major international aviation companies.

The Caribbean Aviation Meetup conference, "CARIBAVIA" for short, is a results and solutions oriented communication platform for stakeholders of airlift which are the aviation and tourism industries. The topics of the 30 sessions will vary from "Friendly Skies; Liberalizing Airlift in the Caribbean" to "Regional Airport Design For A Profit Making Concept", and from "Re-Energizing Destination Marketing" to "Training And Mentoring To Service A Demanding Clientele" and "U.S. Preclear-

ance". Essential subjects related to airports, air traffic, service optimization, destination marketing, tourism development and more will be discussed in an environment of interaction during the sessions and networking around the event.

"Over the past four years the Meetup has been getting increased international interest by experts, professionals, and major players of the aviation industry. CARIBAVIA has become a brand for a unique conference format," comments Cdr. Bud Slabbaert the Chairman and Coordinator of the conference, "The event will be further developed to justify its reputation as the most important airlift conference in the region."

Participants will join the 3-day event from 24 countries/territories of North and Central America, Europe and Africa, as well as the

various Caribbean countries. Participants are typically professionals of the aviation industry (airports, airlines, charter brokers, FBO, other aviation service providers), the tourism industry (tourism boards) and government authority representatives. Eight international aviation and travel journalists are accredited to cover the event.

"The conference, besides becoming a 'must-attend' event for some quite influential people, is also covering a subject that the people of the Caribbean are rapidly beginning to realize is critical to their economic and social well-being," comments Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, Caribavia Board Member and former Minister of Aviation and Tourism of the Bahamas as well as former CEO of the Caribbean Tourism Organization. "We have been saying for de-



cades that the Caribbean is the world most tourism dependent region. But we have failed to act on the simple fact that since most of the economic value of tourism comes from the air traveler, the Caribbean is therefore that region of the world's most dependent on air transportation. I think this Meetup will be seen as a most important turning point for our regional economy." The conference venue is the Simpson Bay Resort on St. Maarten, the Dutch side of the island, where the sessions on the first and third day, as well as the social events will take place. On the second conference

day the sessions will be held at Grand Case airport of St. Martin, French side, and an exclusive 'summit' on luxury tourism for a limited number of participants will be held and hosted by St. Barth. During the Awards Dinner, six professionals will be presented with the Sapphire Pegasus Award for their outstanding performance in the field of Business Aviation. There will also be Air Traffic Control Tower tours at St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport.

Further information may be found at the CARIBAVIA website at www.caribavia.com. □

SPORTS



Kevin Na lines up his putt on the 18th during the second round of the Charles Schwab Challenge golf tournament at Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas, Friday, May 24, 2019.

Associated Press

Na goes low at Colonial again with 62, trails Blixt by 1

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Kevin Na enjoys Colonial and has the cluster of low rounds to prove it. Na eagled the par-5 first hole Friday on the way to an 8-under 62, his third score at least that good in the past six rounds on the cozy course made famous by Ben Hogan. Na, tied for second at 8 under with first-round leader Tony Finau, trailed Jonas Blixt by one halfway through Colonial. After opening with a 62 and closing with a course record-tying 61 to finish fourth last year, Na followed the eagle with six birdies in a bogey-free round after being happy to shoot par 70 on a windy afternoon in the first round. "One of those golf courses I look forward to coming to," said Na, a two-time PGA Tour winner who puts Colonial in his top three along with Riviera and Hilton Head.

Continued on Next Page

NORTHERN EXPOSURE



Bucks on brink of elimination; Raptors lead series 3-2

Toronto Raptors' Kawhi Leonard shoots past Milwaukee Bucks' Brook Lopez during the second half of Game 5 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball playoff finals Thursday, May 23, 2019, in Milwaukee. The Raptors won 105-99 to take a 3-2 lead in the series.

Associated Press

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Broadhurst, Toledo vault to Senior PGA Championship lead

By JOHN WAWROW

AP Sports Writer

PITTSFORD, N.Y. (AP) — Defending champion Paul Broadhurst and Esteban Toledo shared the lead Friday two rounds into the Senior PGA Championship.

Another day of unsettled weather led to a shuffle of the leaderboard with Broadhurst and Toledo vaulting 15 players at the major event. Both shot 3-under 67 to reach 3-under 137 at Oak Hill Country Club's East Course.

Broadhurst, who won last year's tournament at Harbor Shores in southwest Michigan, carded a bogey-free round. Starting on the back nine, he birdied his first two holes — the par-4 10th and par-3 11th — and added a birdie on the par-4 seventh. The 53-year-old Englishman has five PGA Tour Champions victories, also winning a major at the 2016 Senior British Open.

Toledo had five birdies and two bogeys. The 56-year-old from Mexico won the last of his four senior titles in 2016.

First-round leader Scott Parel and Retief Goosen

were two strokes back.

Parel shot 73, making consecutive double bogeys on Nos. 17 and 18. Goosen had a 72.

There were 21 players within six shots of the leaders. The group includes Jesper Parnevik and Rocco Mediate at 2 over, and Corey Pavin and Brandt Jobe among seven players at 3 over.

The narrow 6,800-yard East Course reclaimed its stingy reputation on a day that featured a chilly start and temperatures remaining mostly in the 60s, overcast conditions and a swirling wind. The breeze didn't die down until the sun came out in the late afternoon.

After 15 players carded sub-par scores in the opening round, only four managed to shoot in the 60s on Friday. Aside from Broadhurst and Toledo, Champions Tour money leader Scott McCarron and Mike Goodes both shot 69 to move into a tie for 42nd.

The cut was set at 9-over 149, halving the 156-player field to 78 entering the weekend.

There's more unsettled



Paul Broadhurst watches his shot from the 12th tee during the second round of the Senior PGA Championship golf tournament at Oak Hill on Friday, May 24, 2019, in Pittsford, N.Y.

Associated Press

weather in store for the third round. With thunderstorms in the forecast Saturday afternoon, officials moved up the third-round tee times to between 7 and 9:12 a.m., with groups going out in threes rather than twos. A series of late-morning storms led to the opening round being delayed

by 2 hours, 15 minutes.

Mother Nature clearly favored the players who teed off Thursday morning and Friday afternoon. They accounted for 26 of the 29 players who are 4 over or better through two rounds. Marco Dawson was among the few from the Thursday-afternoon/Friday-morning

groups to be in contention with a two-round score of 1-over 141.

After opening with a bogey-free round of 3 under, Dawson went 4 over on Friday in a round he closed with five bogeys — four on his final eight holes — with a lone birdie on the 439-yard par-4 16th. □

COLONIAL

Continued from Previous Page

"Fits my game. You've got to take advantage of those weeks because there is not too many golf courses like this on tour anymore."

Blixt, a three-time winner playing with Na, holed out from 132 yards for eagle on No. 17 and shot 64 to reach 9 under. Finau, playing the back nine first, started with nine straight pars before three birdies and a bogey on his final nine for a 68.

Local favorite Jordan Spieth, a shot off the lead to start the day, shot 70 and was four behind Blixt. Defending champion Justin Rose, the highest-ranked player in the field at No. 3, shot 67 and was 1 over, one stroke above the cut line.

Rory Sabbatini, the 2007 Colonial champion, shot 66 and was alone in fourth at 6 under. Jim Furyk, the 2003 U.S. Open champion who hasn't won in four years, shot 66 and was

among xx at 5 under.

Blixt, a three-time tour winner, had a little more success navigating the wind than Na in the first round, shooting 67. Both were thinking more about hanging on while hoping to make a move in the second round.

Na didn't waste any time, hitting his second shot to 3 feet for the easy eagle before three birdies on putts of at least 30 feet. After Blixt went up two shots with his pitching wedge from 132 yards at 17, Na pulled within one with a closing birdie when his approach settled inside 5 feet.

"Well, I was trying to do it, so ..." Blixt said about his eagle, the 35-year-old Swede pausing for effect without smiling.

"Nah, so the last two times I played the hole it's been the same kind of wind. We've been thinking it's like left-to-right wind or almost into us, so today I just played more like a little



Jonas Blixt hits from the 18th fairway during the second round of the Charles Schwab Challenge golf tournament at Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas, Friday, May 24, 2019.

Associated Press

downwind."

Jason Dufner got to 8 under with four straight birdies and a 25-foot putt to save par. But the two-time Colonial runner-up missed a short birdie putt at No. 6, his 15th hole, and bogeyed three of the last four for a 68 that left him at 5 under.

Spieth made birdie putts of 50 feet on No. 10 and 46 feet at 12, giving him three putts of more than 40 feet in the same tournament for the first time after making a 46-footer in the first round. But the three-time major winner missed three par putts under 10 feet among

his five bogeys.

"I thought today was average; I thought yesterday was spectacular," Spieth said "Today I missed maybe an 8-footer and a couple 5-footers, but then I made a couple long ones to make up for it. They were kind of misreads. They weren't bad strokes. That's the difference."

Rickie Fowler missed the cut by one shot at 3 over, ending a streak of 21 straight cuts made. It was tied for the second-longest active streak with Tommy Fleetwood and Hideki Matsuyama, one behind Jason Kokrak (22).

Other than the 16th-ranked Finau, Colonial has been unkind to the eight players in field among the top 20 in the world rankings. Francesco Molinari, ranked seventh, and Rose are the only others playing on the weekend. Molinari joined Rose at 1 over after a double bogey on his last hole. □

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Stakes are high as Bucks, Raptors meet in Game 6

By IAN HARRISON

TORONTO (AP) — There's no escaping the reality of what's at stake when the Toronto Raptors host the Milwaukee Bucks in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals on Saturday night.

The surging Raptors have won three straight, putting them on the brink of the first NBA Finals berth in team history.

The Bucks, who finished as the NBA's top team in the regular season and once led this series 2-0, have no more room for error after their first three-game losing streak all season.

These two teams have spent months trying to stay even-keeled, treating everything as just another game. That's starting to get a lot tougher.

"It's an elimination game," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said Friday. "It's just a fact."

Raptors coach Nick Nurse added to that, suggesting the outcome of the series could have franchise-altering implications.

"These are games that now have significance as far as one team's going one direction, and one going the other, possibly," Nurse said. No doubt. Milwaukee starters Khris Middleton, Brook Lopez and Malcolm Brogdon are all headed for free agency, although the Bucks can match offers for Brogdon. Nikola Mirotic is also a free agent this summer.

The Raptors, meanwhile, have no bigger free agent than two-way star Kawhi Leonard, who can opt out

of the final year of his deal.

An NBA Finals berth, or better, in Leonard's debut season north of the border would certainly be a boon to Toronto team President Masai Ujiri when free agency opens on June 30.

MVP candidate Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Bucks need a win to prolong their hopes of reaching the finals for the first time since 1974. Then a Western Conference team, Milwaukee lost to Boston in seven games. One season later, star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar left for the Lakers, and the Bucks haven't played for a ring since.

Toronto won twice in its previous Eastern Conference finals appearance, taking Games 3 and 4 at home against Cleveland in 2016. After that, LeBron James and the Cavs showed their class in Games 5 and 6, outscoring the Raptors by a combined 64 points.

Cleveland swept the Raptors out of the second round in each of the past two seasons, but LeBron's departure from the East and Leonard's arrival in Canada have helped put Toronto in its best position ever.

With his team heading home in need of one more win to set up a finals showdown with Golden State, Nurse knows the Raptors still face a daunting task in Game 6.

"As hard-fought as all these have been, and believe me, they have been, I expect this one to be the hardest fought of them all," Nurse said.

Here's what to know before



Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) fouls Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard (2) during the second half of Game 5 of the NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference finals in Milwaukee on Thursday, May 23, 2019.

Associated Press

Game 6:

NO LIMITS

Nurse won't be worrying about how much playing time his stars log on Saturday night.

"It's a whatever-it-takes game," he said. "It's an unlimited-minutes night."

BREATHING BENEFITS?

Budenholzer, on the other hand, said he sees value in keeping Antetokounmpo's minutes below 40.

"You need to be able to produce and perform, including in the fourth quarter, so I don't feel any different about how much we use him," Budenholzer said.

Antetokounmpo played 39 minutes in Game 5. He played 45 minutes before fouling out in Toronto's double-overtime win in Game 3, but hasn't topped 39 in any other game this postseason. His regular-season high was 42, in an overtime loss to the Knicks on Dec. 1.

TURNOVER TURNAROUND

Toronto trailed 16-4 after making its fourth turnover of the game with 7:55 left in the first quarter of Game 5. The Raptors had just two more turnovers the rest of the game, one each in the second and third quarters.

MORE MIDDLETON?

Middleton shot 2 for 9 in Game 5, the second time this series he has taken fewer than 10 shots. Middleton has had 11 or more attempts in Milwaukee's other 12 postseason games. Budenholzer said he didn't mind the low shot total in Game 5, pointing to Middleton's 10 assists.

"The ball is in his hands, he's making great decisions, he's doing things that are really positive and really impactful," Budenholzer said. Middleton had one 10-assist game in the regular season, against Miami on March 22. □

Twins tie franchise record with 8 homers, beat Twins 16-7

By The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Miguel Sano and Jonathan Schoop each hit two of Minnesota's franchise record-tying eight home runs and the Twins hammered Matt Harvey and the Los Angeles Angels 16-7 Thursday.

C.J. Cron homered, doubled twice and singled twice for the Twins. Max Kepler, Jorge Polanco and Eddie Rosario also homered for Minnesota.

It was the third time in franchise history — dating to their days as the Washington Senators — and second time this season the Twins homered eight times. Before doing it April 20 against Baltimore, the last time it happened was in 1963 against Washington. Schoop drove in four runs and Sano three as the Twins won six of seven on their trip that began in Seattle and wound up with their first sweep in Anaheim since 1996.

There were a total of 11 home runs in this game, which was originally set for Wednesday but postponed due to unplayable field conditions following a pregame storm.

The eight home runs also tied the Angels mark for most allowed. It previously happened in 2005 against Texas and 1996 vs. Oakland. Tommy La Stella hit his first grand slam in the ninth for the Angels, who have dropped four straight. David Fletcher and Brian Goodwin also homered for Los Angeles.

Four of the seven hits Matt Harvey (2-4) allowed in 2 2/3 innings went over the wall.

Twins starter Martin Pérez (7-1) went five innings and yielded two runs on five hits.

YANKEES 6, ORIOLES 5

BALTIMORE (AP) — Mychal Givens walked Aaron Hicks with the bases loaded to force in the tiebreaking run in the ninth inning, and New York completed a four-game sweep of Baltimore. Clint Frazier and Luke Voit homered for the Yankees, who went deep 13 times in the series.

Down 4-1 in the eighth, the



Minnesota Twins' Jonathan Schoop follows the path of his three-run home run against the Los Angeles Angels during the second inning of a baseball game Thursday, May 23, 2019, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

Orioles mounted a comeback. Two walks and an RBI single by Trey Mancini brought in Tommy Kahnle (2-0) from the bullpen, and Renato Nunez tied it with a three-run drive.

In the ninth, Gleyber Torres drew a walk and Gary Sanchez singled before Givens (0-2) walked DJ LeMahieu to load the bases. After going 3-0 on Hicks, Givens got two strikes before missing badly outside.

Zack Britton worked the ninth for his second save. Baltimore has lost six straight. The Orioles own the worst record in the majors (15-35) and worst record at home (6-19).

RAYS 7, INDIANS 2

CLEVELAND (AP) — Ryan Yarbrough handled Cleveland's lineup into eighth inning in his first start this season and Kevin Kiermaier legged out a three-run, inside-the-park homer when two outfielders collided in the win for Tampa Bay.

Tommy Pham, Avisail García and Willy Adames hit solo homers off Adam Plutko (1-1) as the Rays improved baseball's best road record to 16-7.

Yarbrough (3-1) allowed two runs and four hits in a career-high 7 1/3 innings.

The Indians dropped their fourth straight and nearly lost two more players to injury on a freakish play in the sixth when rookie left fielder Oscar Mercado and center fielder Leonys Martin slammed into each other trying to catch the ball. Mercado took the worst of the crash as Martin's left knee drove hard into his right hip. As the two Indians players lay helplessly in the grass, the ball ricocheted toward the left-field corner and Kiermaier easily circled the bases for the first inside-the-parker allowed by Cleveland since 2008.

MARLINS 5, TIGERS 2

DETROIT (AP) — Garrett Cooper hit a grand slam with two outs in the ninth inning and Miami extended its winning streak to six games with the win over Detroit.

The Marlins, who had the worst record in the majors last week, extended the longest active winning streak in the big leagues.

The Tigers wrapped up an 0-9 stay at Comerica Park against Houston, Oakland and the Marlins. That record doesn't include a suspended game in which Detroit trails Oakland in the late innings.

Miami benefited from a couple of fielding lapses by the Tigers in the ninth to come back against Shane Greene (0-2), who had been 15 for 15 on save chances this season.

Marlins starter Trevor Richards struck out six over 5 2/3 innings, allowing eight hits and one run.

Tyler Kinley (1-0) gave up one run in the eighth and got the win. Sergio Romo earned his ninth save with a perfect ninth.

RED SOX 8, BLUE JAYS 2

TORONTO (AP) — Ryan Weber pitched six innings to earn his first career win as a starter, Steve Pearce homered and had three RBIs and Boston beat Toronto. Pearce went 3 for 5. He singled in the fourth and sixth innings and hit a two-run shot off Ryan Feierabend in the ninth, his first of the season.

Rafael Devers had two hits, two RBIs and scored twice as Boston improved to 11-3 in its past 14 road games. The struggling Blue Jays lost for the third time in four games.

Weber (1-0) allowed one run on three hits, walked none and struck out four. Toronto's Sam Gaviglio (3-1) allowed four hits, two

earned runs and struck out one in the loss. Justin Smoak hit a solo homer in the ninth.

WHITE SOX 4, ASTROS 0

HOUSTON (AP) — Lucas Giolito pitched a four-hitter for his first major league shutout, rookie Eloy Jiménez hit his third homer in two games and Chicago beat Houston.

Yoán Moncada had an RBI double and Tim Anderson added a run-scoring single for the White Sox, who earned a four-game series split by handing Houston its first set of consecutive losses since May 1-2.

Giolito (6-1) struck out a season-best nine and walked one in winning his fourth start in a row and fifth straight decision. In his previous outing last Saturday, the 24-year-old right-hander was credited with his first career complete game when he beat Toronto 4-1 in a game called after 4 1/2 innings because of rain.

After that one, Giolito said he didn't consider it a complete game until he went nine innings. He did that Thursday.

It was the first complete game shutout for a White Sox pitcher since Chris Sale threw a two-hitter at Tampa Bay on April 15, 2016.

Jimenez, who was 0 for 7 in the first two games of the series before hitting two homers in a win Wednesday night, connected off fellow rookie Corbin Martin (1-1) for a solo shot in the fourth inning that made it 4-0.

Martin gave up six hits and four runs over 3 1/3 innings in his third career start. □



Gómez HR sinks Nats after Martinez ejection, Mets sweep

By The Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Carlos Gómez hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the eighth inning that helped New York overcome a Washington comeback that started after Nationals manager Dave Martinez's heated ejection. Gómez's first homer of the season came off Wander Suero (1-4) as the Mets completed a four-game sweep. The Nationals came to life after Martinez's ejection in the eighth. Juan Soto walked against Robert Gsellman (1-0), Victor Robles singled, and Yan Gomes brought in Soto with a double. Gerardo Parra followed with a pinch-hit, two-run single for a 4-3 Washington lead. The Nationals have lost five straight and six of seven. Edwin Díaz picked up his 12th save. Mets starter Steven Matz allowed 10 hits over six innings of one-run ball. Washington starter Stephen Strasburg allowed two runs and five hits over seven innings.
PIRATES 14, ROCKIES 6
PITTSBURGH (AP) — Josh Bell, Bryan Reynolds and

Starling Marte homered in the seventh inning to lead Pittsburgh past Colorado. The Pirates jumped on Rockies starter Antonio Senzatela (3-4) for eight runs over 3 1/3 innings, but Colorado stormed back in the sixth, plating six runs that were charged to Pittsburgh starter Jordan Lyles (5-1). Pittsburgh quickly fought back with three homers. Gregory Polanco homered in the first for Pittsburgh. The Pirates had scored just two runs while dropping their first two games of the series before setting a new season high with 14 on Thursday.
PHILLIES 9, CUBS 7
CHICAGO (AP) — Jean Segura and J.T. Realmuto homered off Jon Lester, and Philadelphia beat Chicago for a split of the four-game series between division leaders. Andrew McCutchen added two hits and two RBIs as Philadelphia won for the fifth time in seven games. Aaron Nola (5-0) pitched 5 1/3 innings of three-run ball in his second straight victory. Anthony Rizzo and Kyle Schwarber hit homers for Chicago, which had won

three of four. Rizzo finished with four hits and three RBIs, but the NL Central-leading Cubs were unable to overcome a second consecutive shaky performance by Lester (3-3). Lester was charged with four earned runs and seven hits in his second straight loss. He had an 8-0 record and a 1.49 ERA in 10 career starts against the Phillies before Thursday. Segura also doubled in the third to extend his hitting streak to 14 games.
BRAVES 5, GIANTS 4, 13 INNINGS
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Austin Riley hit a game-tying home run in the eighth inning and then drove in the go-ahead run in the 13th with a two-out single off Reyes Moronta, lifting Atlanta past San Francisco. Riley and Ozzie Albies each had three hits for Atlanta and Tyler Flowers homered. The Braves have won 10 of 13. Luke Jackson (3-1), who blew his fourth save on Tuesday, retired six batters to win. Tyler Austin hit his first career pinch-hit home run, and Brandon Belt scored on a wild pitch for San Fran-



New York Mets' Carlos Gomez gestures while running the bases after hitting a three-run home run off Washington Nationals relief pitcher Wander Suero during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Thursday, May 23, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

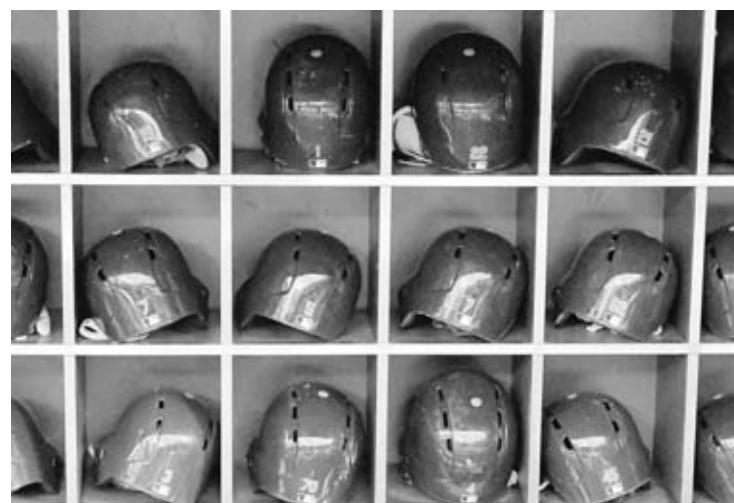
cisco. Riley already had one hit before his two-run homer off Tony Watson with two outs in the eighth. It was the 22-year-old's third home run of the series and fifth overall. Atlanta's win over-

shadowed a strong outing by Giants starter Madison Bumgarner, who allowed two runs on six hits, walked two and left with a 4-2 lead. Braves starter Kevin Gausman allowed three runs in six innings. □

Deaths from brain, heart problems higher for NFL than MLB

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer
CHICAGO (AP) — Pro football players may be more likely to die from degenerative brain diseases and heart problems than baseball players but the reasons are unclear, a new study suggests. The differences may seem obvious. Repeated head blows have been linked with a wasting brain disease in football players. Also, girth can contribute to heart problems, and football players are generally bigger and heavier than baseball players. But the researchers emphasized that they lacked information on family history, genetics and lifestyle that all affect risks for spe-

cific diseases and death. Some studies have suggested NFL players may live longer than the general population, but the researchers said comparing athletes from two elite sports provides a better perspective on risks that may be inherent to football or baseball. They focused on 6,100 athletes born before 1965 who competed for at least five seasons in the NFL or Major League Baseball and who died between 1979 through 2013. Among NFL players, there were 517 deaths at an average age of 60. That compares with 431 deaths at age 67 on average among baseball players. The researchers, led by Marc Weisskopf from Har-



This Sept. 28, 2018 photo shows batting helmets in a rack before a Major League Baseball game in New York.

Associated Press

vard's public health school, wrote that their results may be "limited to NFL players in the playing years considered because there have been changes in sports

characteristics over time, such as helmet use, training regimen, and smoking prevalence." They said more studies are needed to determine reasons for

the differences they found. Their study was published Friday in JAMA Network Open. Zachary Kerr, a sports injury researcher at the University of North Carolina, called the study important but said it leaves many questions unanswered, including whether young amateur athletes face similar risks. Kerr co-authored a journal editorial. Brain diseases caused or contributed to 39 NFL deaths compared with 16 deaths among baseball players. That amounts to a nearly three times greater risk for NFL players, results that echo an earlier study comparing brain disease deaths in NFL players with the general population. □

Staying sharp: Sack artist Donald fueled by Super Bowl loss

By PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

To stay a cut above the competition, Aaron Donald again trained this offseason by dodging knives.

Fake blades, of course. But the results from the reaction exercises have certainly been real.

The two-time reigning AP defensive player of the year for the Los Angeles Rams is always searching for out-of-the-box ways to take his game to another level. The sting of a 13-3 Super Bowl loss to Tom Brady and the New England Patriots in February helps him stay sharp, too. That's one reason the defensive tackle attended organized team activities this spring for the first time since 2016, even as other veterans passed on the workouts.

Anything to earn that ring. "The main goal is to be the No. 1 team standing and call yourself a champion," said Donald, who skipped workouts the last two springs while dealing with contract negotiations before signing a \$135 million, six-year extension last August. "So I'm just working, trying to get myself better and continue to improve my game." Donald is coming off a season in which he recorded 20½ sacks.

So yes, Donald has given thoughts to former New



In this Feb. 3, 2019, file photo, Los Angeles Rams Aaron Donald (99) rushes against the New England Patriots during NFL Super Bowl 53 in Atlanta.

York Giants standout Michael Strahan's 22½-sack season in 2001, which is the NFL record since it became an official stat in 1982.

And no, he doesn't chase after it.

"If you would've asked me five years ago if I would have an opportunity to have 23 sacks in one season, I would've laughed at you and said, 'That's impossible,'" Donald said in a phone interview as the player known for his quick bursts to the QB embraces National Runners' Month at DICK'S Sporting Goods. "You would like to accomplish something like that,

but in the mix of doing your job and helping your team win you play at a high level. So all that's going to come about on its own. Because the more you think about it, the less success you have.

"Go out there and play and let the game come to you, and good things come from that. It's worked for me so far."

All he's done is become a nightmare assignment in the middle since the Rams drafted him with a first-round pick in 2014 out of the University of Pittsburgh. Donald, who turned 28 on Thursday, is listed at 6-foot-1, 280 pounds — not the

usual measurements for a dominating inside presence.

And yet dominating is what he's been against the run and chasing QBs. With his speed, strength and athleticism, he's become the NFL prototype.

"You open up doors for the next guy, who opens up doors for the next," Donald explained. "You do your job and do it at a high level and keep working and do what you're supposed to do, everybody has an opportunity to do great things. Just got to have that mindset and that will to want to do it."

Over the offseason, he again used the fake knives to help him improve his agility. His trainer would lunge at him with a blade in each hand and Donald knocked it away — just like he would the arms of an opposing offensive lineman.

"Trying to work on my hand speed and reaction," Donald said. "I go through different things in my training to think outside the box. Think of things that can help me. Just trying to out-work myself every year to be better."

Next up, distance running. Well, maybe.

Although his training is built around short distances, he's contemplating a 5-kilometer (3.1 mile) race down the road, especially after meeting a group of kids as part of Girls on the Run, an organization that teaches young girls life skills through running activities. Donald surprised them at a DICK'S Sporting Goods store in the Los Angeles area and helped them line up new running gear.

Donald even went for a little jog with the kids.

"Just trying to keep up with the girls," said Donald, who recently made a seven-figure donation to the University of Pittsburgh's Football Championship Fund. "I have 10-yard bursts in me. □"

Judge axes 3 of 4 lawyers in NFL concussion case

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The federal judge overseeing the \$1 billion NFL concussion settlement has terminated three of four lawyers serving as class counsel.

The surprise order Friday afternoon comes just weeks after a hearing to air complaints about new rules that limit the doctors who can evaluate retired players for dementia and other brain injuries.

Senior U.S. District Judge Anita Brody says she imposed the 150-miles-from-home rule to thwart doctor shopping and potential fraud alleged by the NFL as the more than \$1 billion settlement fund is disbursed.

She has named New York lawyer Christopher Seeger as the only attorney left who can handle issues on behalf of the 20,000-member class.

Outgoing class counsel Gene Locks tells The Associated Press the order Friday "extinguishes any remaining hope" that clients will be protected as they move through the contentious medical testing and award process.

He told Brody at a hearing this month that there aren't enough qualified neurologists, neuropsychologists and subspecialists taking part in the program to meet the close-to-home

rule.

"This court has been told, many times, in motions and in camera (chambers), factual arguments from the NFL that have been exaggerated and intended to limit their obligations to the players," Locks said.

He said the order Friday is in keeping with Brody's denial of repeated motions filed by anyone other than Seeger.

"At this point, (it) extinguishes any remaining hope that the individual interests of the class members will be adequately protected," Locks told the AP.

Seeger, in a statement, vowed to "continue to

fight on behalf of former players and their families to ensure that they receive every benefit they deserve under the settlement."

Lawyers involved in the long-running case are meanwhile splitting more than \$112 million in fees, with the lion's share going to Seeger's firm. He was not one of the first to bring suit against the NFL, but became a lead lawyer in the secret negotiations that led to a surprise 2013 settlement. The players' lawsuits had alleged the NFL long hid what it knew about the neurological risks of playing after concussions.

The fund is meant to last for

65 years. The awards in the first two years of payouts alone reached \$500 million this month, while another \$160 million in awards have been approved but not yet paid. The plan offers retired players baseline testing and compensation of up to \$5 million for the most serious illnesses linked to football concussions, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and deaths involving chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE. Of the 872 awards paid to date, the average is just under \$575,000, according to a claims administrator's report this month. □

U.S. faces greater challenges this time around at World Cup

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

The U.S. women's national team is well aware the rest of the world is catching up. Long dominant on the international stage, the No. 1-ranked Americans are heading to France for the Women's World Cup with any number of teams potentially in position to topple the defending champions.

Among the challengers are host France, upstart England, the surprise third-place finisher at the 2015 World Cup in Canada, and even the Canadians themselves, who would love to get an upper hand in a longstanding rivalry with their North American neighbors.

"I do not think that the U.S. is as strong as they have always been, the same with Germany, while not underestimating teams like Italy and Spain that may be inferior," said Sweden midfielder Kosovar Asllani. "We will of course do everything to be at the top. It is open for any national team, really."

Jill Ellis is leading the U.S. team into her second World Cup as coach. She selected a roster that emphasized experience, but the lineup will look vastly different from four years ago.

Stalwarts Abby Wambach and Lauren Holiday have retired, and Carli Lloyd — who scored a hat trick in the title game in Canada — has moved into a "super sub" role off the bench.

The U.S. women are focused on winning on the field in France even while at home they are looking for a different victory. Known for championing women's rights and equality, the players collectively filed a lawsuit alleging discrimination by the U.S. Soccer Federation and seeking pay equitable with that of players on the men's national team.

Forward Christen Press said it's this unity on and off the field that makes the United States a formidable team. "The World Cup is precious to us and we want to have all our focus there," she said. Alex Morgan will lead the attack, flanked by Megan Rapinoe and Tobin Heath. Morgan, who broke out at the 2012 Olympics and is playing in her third World Cup, scored 18 goals in 19 games last year and was the team's Player of the Year for 2018.

A focus will no doubt be Alyssa Naeher, who has the daunting task of replacing Hope Solo in goal. Solo won the Golden Glove in Canada as the tourna-



United States women's national soccer team members, from left, Carli Lloyd, Alex Morgan and Megan Rapinoe speak to reporters during a news conference in New York, Friday, May 24, 2019. Associated Press

ment's best goalkeeper, allowing just three goals. But she was ultimately dismissed from the team following the 2016 Olympics. Naeher is known for her calm demeanor.

"I've kind of found over the years that it's best to just keep that even mindset, not too high and not too low," she said. "There's obviously a lot of defensive strategies and changes leading into a game, and within a game. The more that I can kind of just stay

in the moment and kind of take it all in, the better position I'll put myself in."

Helping Naeher will be a backline that includes veterans Becky Sauerbrunn and Kelley O'Hara, both playing in their third World Cup.

In the Brazil Games, Sweden bunkered on defense and went on to advance to the semifinals, handing the U.S. its earliest exit in Olympic competition. Solo famously called the Swedes "cowards" for the tactic.

But that game could provide something of a blueprint for how to beat the United States. Sweden was coached at the time by former U.S. coach Pia Sundhage, who knew the Americans well.

Sundhage has since moved on, but the U.S. will again face Sweden in the final game of the group stage. Ellis joked before the draw in December that she fully expected to be grouped with Sweden — so of course it happened. □

Zakarin wins 1st mountain-top finish of Giro; Polanc leads

CERESOLE REALE, Italy (AP) — Russian rider Ilnur Zakarin won the 13th stage of the Giro d'Italia with a solo attack up to the race's first big mountain-top finish, and Jan Polanc held onto the overall leader's pink jersey Friday.

Zakarin, who rides for Team Katusha Alpecin, required more than 5½ hours to complete the 196-kilometer (122-mile) route from Pinerolo to Ceresole Reale near Turin. It was the third Grand Tour stage win of Zakarin's career, having also won stages in the 2015 Giro and 2016 Tour de France.

The route featured three major climbs, including a grueling ascent to Ceresole Reale between banks of snow lining the road.

Zakarin was part of an early breakaway and then accelerated away from Mikel Nieve in the final kilometers. Nieve crossed second, 35 seconds behind, and Mikel Landa finished third, 1:20 behind. Overall favorites Primož Roglič and Vincenzo Nibali finished in a two-man group in seventh and eighth, respectively, both nearly three minutes behind Zakarin.

Roglič and Nibali finished

well ahead of Polanc, who took the lead on Thursday. Polanc now leads Roglič by 2:25 with Zakarin third, 2:56 behind, Bauke Mollema fourth and Nibali fifth.

"We knew the last climb will be really hard," Zakarin said through a translator. "I didn't have a plan for the climb. I did my best and this is the result. The ambition is to be in the top five and now it is possible."

Landa, who has gained time on the other overall favorites for two consecutive days, is eighth. Miguel Angel Lopez had a mechanical problem with his chain on the final climb



Russia's Ilnur Zakarin celebrates on the podium after winning the 13th stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race, from Pinerolo to Ceresole Reale, Italy, Friday, May 24, 2019.

and trails by 7:48. Team Ineos rider Tao Geoghegan Hart of Britain crashed out while in an early breakaway.

Stage 14 on Saturday is another grueling mountain leg, featuring five climbs

and another uphill finish along the 131-kilometer route from Saint-Vincent to Courmayeur in the Valle d'Aosta region near the French border.

The three-week race ends in Verona on June 2. □

NASA's first-of-kind tests look to manage drones in cities

RENO, Nev. (AP) — NASA has launched the final stage of a four-year effort to develop a national traffic management system for drones, testing them in cities for the first time beyond the operator's line of sight as businesses look in the future to unleash the unmanned devices in droves above busy streets and buildings.

Multiple drones took to the air at the same time above downtown Reno this week in a series of simulations testing emerging technology that someday will be used to manage hundreds of thousands of small unmanned commercial aircraft delivering packages, pizzas and medical supplies.

"This activity is the latest and most technical challenge we have done with unmanned aerial systems," said David Korsmeyer, associate director of research and technology at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California. An autonomous drone took off Tuesday from the rooftop of a five-story casino parking garage and landed on the roof of another out of view across the street. It hovered as on-board sensors adjusted for gusty winds before returning close to the center of the launchpad.

Equipped with GPS, others



In this May 21, 2019 photo, two drones fly above Lake Street in downtown Reno, Nev., on, as part of a NASA simulation to test emerging technology that someday will be used to manage travel of hundreds of thousands of commercial, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) delivering packages. It marked the first time such tests have been conducted in an urban setting.

Associated Press

flew at each other no higher than city streetlights but were able to avoid colliding through onboard tracking systems connected to NASA's computers on the ground.

Similar tests have been conducted in remote and rural areas. The Federal Aviation Administration has authorized individual test flights in cities before but never for multiple drones or outside the sight of the operator.

The new round of tests continuing this summer in Reno and Corpus Christi, Texas,

marks the first time simulations have combined all those scenarios, said Chris Walach, executive director of the Nevada Institute of Autonomous Systems, which is running the Reno tests of unnamed aerial vehicles, or UAVs.

"When we began this project four years ago, many of us wouldn't have thought we'd be standing here today flying UAVs with advanced drone systems off high-rise buildings," he said. The team adopted a "crawl, walk, run" philoso-

phy when it initiated tests in 2015, culminating with this fourth round of simulations, said Ron Johnson, project manager for unmanned aircraft systems traffic management at NASA's Ames Research Center.

"We are definitely in the 'run' phase of this development here in Reno," he said.

The results will be shared with the FAA. The agency outlined proposed rules in January that would ease restrictions on flying drones over crowds but said it won't take final action until

it finishes another regulation on identifying drones as they're flying — something industry analysts say could be years away.

Critics assert that the FAA has stymied the commercial use of drones by applying the same rigid safety standard it uses for airlines.

"There can be a lot of Silicon Valley mentality where people don't want to wait. So, we're trying to strike a balance between unleashing entrepreneurship and ensuring we're doing it safely while trying to accelerate acceptance of drones in public," Johnson said.

Amazon and FedEx are among the companies that hope to send consumer products by drone by 2020. Drone delivery company Flirtey began testing delivery of defibrillators for cardiac arrest patients last year in Reno under FAA oversight.

Johnson said cities present the biggest challenges because of limited, small landing areas among tall buildings that create navigation and communication problems.

He said it became apparent early on that the travel management plans for drones would have to be completely automated because FAA air traffic controllers can't handle the enormous workload. □

SpaceX launches 60 little satellites, with many more to come

By **MARCIA DUNN**

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

— SpaceX has launched 60 little satellites, the first of thousands that founder Elon Musk plans to put in orbit for global internet coverage.

The recycled Falcon rocket blasted off late Thursday night. The first-stage booster landed on an ocean platform following liftoff, as the tightly packed cluster of satellites continued upward.

Musk said Friday all 60 flat-panel satellites were deployed and online a few hundred miles (kilometers) above Earth. Each weighs



A Falcon 9 SpaceX rocket with a payload of 60 satellites for SpaceX's Starlink broadband network, lifts off from Space Launch Complex 40 at Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Thursday, May 23, 2019.

Associated Press

500 pounds (227 kilograms) and has a single solar panel and a krypton-powered thruster for raising and maintaining altitude. The

satellites have the capability of automatically dodging sizable pieces of space junk. The orbiting constellation — named Starlink — will

grow in the next few years, Musk said.

Twelve launches of 60 satellites each will provide reliable and affordable internet coverage throughout the U.S., he said. Twenty-four launches will serve most of the populated world and 30 launches the entire world. That will be 1,800 satellites in total, with more planned after that.

Musk told reporters last week there's "a fundamental goodness" to giving people in all corners of the globe choices in broadband internet service. He's especially interested in reaching areas without coverage or where it is ex-

pensive or unreliable.

Other companies have similar plans, including Project Kuiper from Jeff Bezos' Amazon and OneWeb.

According to Musk, California-based SpaceX can use Starlink revenue to develop more advanced rockets and spacecraft to achieve his ultimate goal of establishing a city on Mars.

Musk, who also runs the electric carmaker Tesla and other ventures, said Starlink is one of the hardest engineering projects he's encountered. The satellites include a lot of new technology, and he warned last week that some of them might not work. □

Young homebuyers scramble as prices rise faster than incomes

By JOSH BOAK

LARRY FENN

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — For millennials looking to buy their first home, the hunt feels like a race against the clock.

In the seven years since the housing crash ended, home values in more than three-quarters of U.S. metro areas have climbed faster than incomes, according to an Associated Press analysis of real estate industry data provided by CoreLogic.

That gap is driving some first-timers out of the most expensive cities as well as pressuring them to buy something before they are completely priced out of the market.

The high cost of home ownership is also putting extreme pressure on 20- and 30-somethings as they try to balance mortgage payments, student loans, child care and their careers.

"They do want all the same things that previous generations want," said Daryl Fairweather, chief economist for the brokerage Redfin. "They just have more roadblocks, and they're going to have to come up with more creative solutions to get the homes that they want."

A Redfin analysis found these buyers are leaving too-hot-to-touch big-city markets — among them, San Francisco and Seattle, where the tech boom has sent housing prices into the stratosphere. The brokerage found that many millennials are instead buying in more reasonably priced neighborhoods around places like Salt Lake City, Oklahoma City and Raleigh, North Carolina. That, in turn, is driving up housing prices in those communities.

Jake and Heather Rice, both 35, moved to Utah last year from Mountain View, California, where the biggest employers are tech giants such as Google, Symantec and Intuit and the median home price is a dizzying \$1.4 million or so.

The couple and their three children settled into a



This April 13, 2019, photo, shows rows of homes, in suburban Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

4,500-square-foot house in fast-growing Farmington, just far enough away from Salt Lake City to feel rural but minutes from a major shopping center and Heather's sister. They did not disclose the purchase price for the sake of privacy, but they said their monthly mortgage payments will be \$3,000, roughly the same as the rent for their former two-bedroom, 1,000 square-foot apartment in Mountain View.

"We didn't expect to stay in California because of how ludicrous the prices had become," said Jake, a mechanical engineer who works in the medical device sector.

Nationally, home prices since 2000 have climbed at an annual average rate of 3.8%, according to the data firm CoreLogic, while average incomes have grown at an annual rate of 2.7%. And in the metro areas with the strongest income growth — for example, parts of Silicon Valley

— home prices have risen even faster.

The Salt Lake City area is among the hottest spots for first-time buyers in part because of a staggering burst of home construction and a surge of high-tech jobs. The suburb of Lehi, which served as a film location for the 1984 Kevin Bacon movie "Footloose," about a rural town that banned dancing, is in what is now known as "Silicon Slopes" because Adobe, eBay and Microsoft have opened offices there. Of course, the influx of people from unaffordable cities is contributing to the very problem they were trying to escape: Home prices in the greater Salt Lake City area surged 10.8% in the past year, while average incomes rose only 3.9%, according to figures from CoreLogic and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Scott Robbins, president of the Salt Lake Board of Realtors, sees the price growth as having changed the habits of first-time buyers.

They are putting less money down and carrying more debt. And some first-time buyers are looking at condos and duplexes instead of houses.

There is also more pressure on families to earn two incomes, rather than letting one choose to be the stay-at-home parent. This could be a particular challenge in the Salt Lake City area, where families are generally larger, mostly because of the influence of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and about 28% of the population is under 18, compared with nearly 24% nationwide.

"The one thing that really would make it even more sustainable is if wages would increase," Robbins said. "Whereas before you could have a young couple buy a place and only one of them would work. Now, you need both of them to work."

Andy and Stacie Proctor made a bid on a house in the Salt Lake City sub-

urbs, only to rescind it upon learning there were 13 rival offers. At one point, they almost decided not to buy a house just yet, figuring the bubble was going to burst eventually, said Andy, a 35-year-old who hosts the podcast "More Happy Life." But there was also the opposite risk: "There is the question about whether it's going to keep going up," his 31-year-old wife said.

The couple ultimately made a successful offer on a three-bedroom house for \$438,000 in Vineyard, Utah. It includes an apartment that could be rented out to defray their mortgage payments. That will make it easier for them to afford starting a family.

Roughly 1 in 6 homes sold in the Salt Lake Valley since 2004 have been in a 4,100-acre development called Daybreak, being built on land once owned by mining giant Rio Tinto. About 5,500 homes have been constructed, with an additional 14,500 units planned — enough in total to house roughly 65,000 people.

The homes range from \$180,000 to \$1 million. One of the guiding principles is that homeowners can upgrade or downsize without having to move out of the neighborhood.

But that cycle of upgrading might not continue as it did for past generations. Home values need to rise for people to build equity that they can use to buy a new house. Yet if they rise too fast, it will become too expensive for many people to move up.

Parry Harrison, a 26-year-old divorced father of two small children, bought a townhouse in Daybreak for \$309,000 in March. His down payment came in large part from selling his previous home, which appreciated a robust 25% in the two years he owned it. He hopes to upgrade again in five years, when his children might need more space.

"It's definitely not a forever home," he said. "It's a lot more convenient if I have move-up opportunities that are right next door."q

Mutts



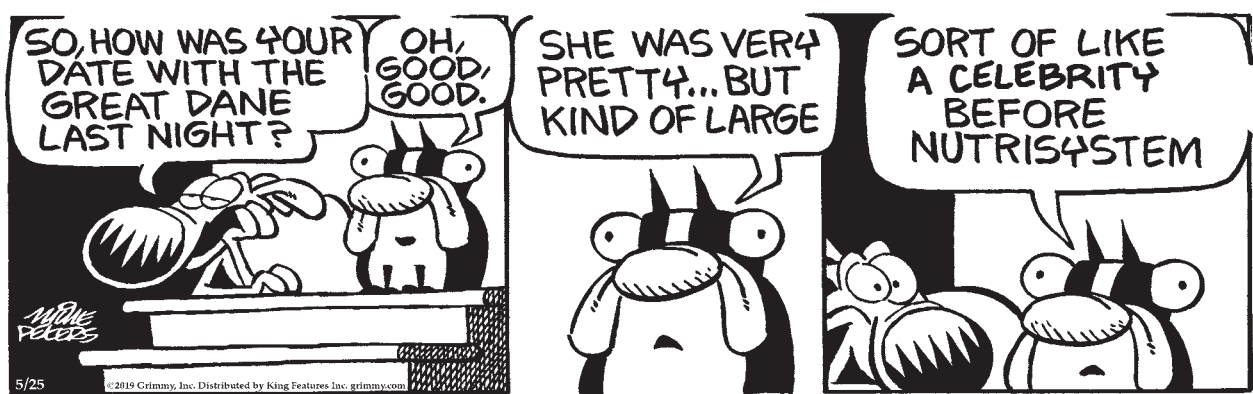
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	3	1	6	9			8	
6			2					7
							6	4
7								1
9	2							
5								
2				6				8
	9			4	8	5	1	

Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

5/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

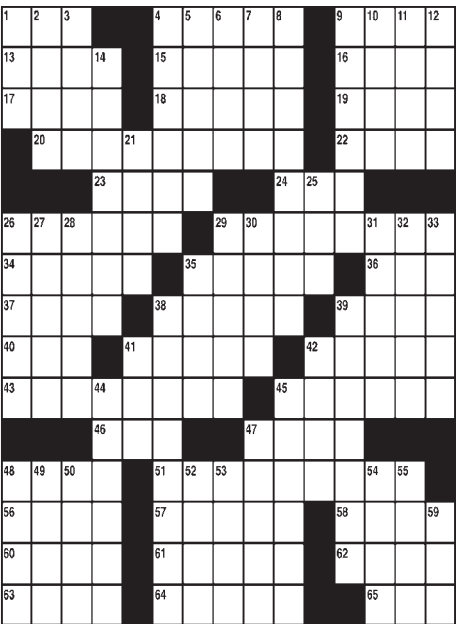
5	2	8	9	6	1	4	7	3
7	3	6	4	2	8	9	5	1
4	9	1	3	7	5	8	2	6
8	6	9	1	4	7	2	3	5
2	4	7	6	5	3	1	8	9
3	1	5	2	8	9	6	4	7
9	8	2	7	3	6	5	1	4
1	7	4	5	9	2	3	6	8
6	5	3	8	1	4	7	9	2

ACROSS

- 1 Skater Babilonia
4 Sun-dried brick
9 Dermatitis symptom
13 Victories
15 UCLA athlete
16 Guy
17 All at ____; suddenly
18 ____ up; evaluates
19 Make obscure by smearing
20 Thus
22 Like petits fours
23 Football kick
24 Throng
26 Short fast race
29 San Francisco transport
34 ____ to; refuse to let go of
35 Construct
36 Color
37 ____ a bell; sounded familiar
38 Sap-yielding tree
39 Theater section
40 Connecting word
41 European capital city
42 Prepared to take a selfie
43 Bugged
45 Passengers
46 Dustcloth
47 Bob Hope's frequent costar
48 Health nut's lunch, perhaps
51 Hugeness
56 Doesn't have both ____ in the water
57 Approaches
58 In ____; destitute
60 Make sharp
61 More than enough
62 Equipment
63 Loony
64 ____ one's cool; blows up
65 Timid

DOWN

- 1 Deuce
2 Isn't, slangy
3 Part of a foot



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/25/19

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	I	D	T	R	E	A	D	S	H	O	W
T	I	M	E	H	E	A	R	D	L	I	M
A	L	M	S	W	A	R	M	E	D	O	V
I	S	A	B	A	L	L	S	O	P	E	N
C	H	A	R	M	H	I	E				
S	Q	U	I	N	T	N	E	L	S	O	N
P	U	L	L	S	D	E	C	A	Y	V	A
R	E	A	L	T	R	A	I	T	B	E	V
Y	E	T	T	I	E	R	S	B	A	R	E
N	E	P	H	E	W	C	I	R	C	L	E
R	E	D	W	E	L	S	H				
O	S	C	A	R	S	P	A	R	K	A	W
W	H	I	T	E	H	O	U	S	E	T	R
N	O	T	E	A	O	R	T	A	U	G	L
S	P	E	D	S	T	E	E	L	B	E	D

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5/25/19

- 42 Bowler's focus
44 Has confidence in
45 Washes off soapsuds
47 Comedian Milton
48 Cape __, South Africa
49 Waikiki Beach's island
50 Worry
52 Office note
53 Geography book diagrams
54 Golf shop purchase
55 Slangy affirmative
59 Parched



In this March 3, 2013 file photo elephants drink water in the Chobe National Park in Botswana.

Associated Press

Botswana hires Hollywood firm to fight elephant hunting PR

By BRIAN SLODYSKO
MICHAEL BIESECKER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Botswanan government has enlisted a public relations firm with deep ties to Hollywood to push back against the bad publicity generated by the southern African nation's decision to lift its ban on elephant hunting.

42 West, a firm mostly known for its work with celebrities and the film industry, notified the U.S. Justice Department last week that it will be working with Botswana's tourism ministry, according to a filing made under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

The firm will be paid \$125,000 over the next two months — with the possibility of more work to come — for developing talking points and a communica-

tions plan that "articulates Botswana's policy on elephant hunting" that will be delivered to "key U.S. and other Western audiences," according to its filing.

That puts 42 West in an awkward spot. Big-game hunting is a deeply divisive issue, particularly in Hollywood, and numerous celebrity activists have spoken out against killing the world's largest land mammal for sport, including some calls for a tourism boycott of Botswana.

Among the firm's clients is actress Meryl Streep, who has been a vocal opponent of the sale and importation of ivory, which in 2014 she called a "product of horrific cruelty to elephants, who could very well become extinct within decades if we don't act now." □

Classifieds



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2B Oceanside \$8500
GV \$6k OV \$7k
3BEDROOM \$12500

PLATINUM Season

2B Oceanfront \$25k
Oceanside \$16k
Oceanview \$15k
3BEDROOM \$25k
*WK. 51 GV \$39k
*WK 52 OV \$46k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

GOLD Season

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2B OV \$8000
1 Bed \$4000
1B Oceanfront \$8500

PLATINUM Season

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Illegal killings, political opposition hobble wolf recovery

By JONATHAN DREW, SUSAN MONTTOYA BRYAN and MATTHEW BROWN

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Illegal

killings and longstanding political resistance have undercut the return of two species of endangered wolves to the wild, frustrating government efforts that already cost more than \$80 million but have failed to meet recovery targets.

The number of red wolves roaming the forests of North Carolina has plunged to fewer than three dozen in recent years — the most precarious position of any U.S. wolf species.

In the Southwest, a record number of Mexican gray wolves turned up dead in 2018, tempering an increase in the overall population to 131 animals.

With such small numbers in the wild, biologists say poaching has a big effect. Over the last two decades, more than half of Mexican wolf deaths and about one in four red wolf deaths resulted from gunshots or were otherwise deemed illegal, The Associated Press found.

"It's basically a numbers game," said Brady McGee, who heads the Mexican wolf recovery program for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "As we're trying to recover these wolves in the wild, illegal mortalities are still one of the biggest threats."

For red wolves, gunshot deaths are a problem particularly when hunting season collides with wolf breeding season, said Pete Benjamin, a Fish and Wildlife Service field supervisor in North Carolina.

Wolf recovery is further hindered by political opposition over attacks on livestock or game animals and longstanding arguments



This May 25, 2014 photo provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife shows a 100-pound adult male wolf which was outfitted with a GPS radio-collar in the Mt. Emily area.

Associated Press

over whether the wolves should be treated as distinct species warranting continued protection.

With no changes to current management, the wild population of red wolves likely will be lost within the next decade, according to federal officials. The Mexican gray wolf recovery team is more confident and hopes to double the number in the wild over several years.

FRAUGHT HISTORY, MIXED RESULTS

Conflicts over wolves have persisted since Europeans arrived in America. Bounties paid by early settlers gave way to government extermination campaigns as the animals clashed with the agrarian way of life.

When federal officials began recovery efforts in the late 1960s, only remnant populations remained outside Alaska — Western gray wolves along the U.S.-Canada border, red wolves on

the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana and Mexican wolves south of the border. Reintroduction programs faced stiff resistance from ranchers and rural communities, a hurdle that so far the Western gray wolf alone has overcome.

Western gray wolves now number around 6,000 in the Northern Rockies, Pacific Northwest and Western Great Lakes. They're legal to hunt in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, and U.S. officials in March announced plans to end their remaining federal protections across the Lower 48 states. The main reason for their success is location: Western gray wolves were reintroduced to areas with expansive public lands and plenty of deer, elk and other prey.

"The habitat was so good that it didn't matter if half the people hated them," said Ed Bangs, a retired federal biologist who led recovery efforts in the Northern Rockies.

By contrast, Mexican wolves live in isolated desert mountain ranges, where year-round livestock grazing increases their odds of running into trouble. Red wolves are in an area dominated by farms and private land.

At least 96 red wolves died of gunshot wounds over

nearly three decades. For Mexican wolves, 83 deaths were classified as "illegal" over 20 years and that doesn't include any of the 21 deaths in 2018 still under investigation.

The Mexican and red wolf populations are struggling despite a great amount of money and work put into their reintroduction.

Since 1977, more than \$44.2 million has been spent on the Mexican wolf, according to federal reports. At least \$39.4 million has been spent on red wolves over the past three decades.

About \$160 million more has been spent primarily on Western gray wolves.

DWINDLING RED WOLVES

Legal protections for red wolves have been solidified by the recent scientific conclusion that they're a distinct species, not a wolf-coyote hybrid as some landowners argued. But conservationists worry the news comes too late, with only 25 to 30 of the canines left in the wild and 200 or more in captive breeding programs.

After red wolves were reintroduced to North Carolina in 1987, the wild population grew beyond 100 and remained stable through 2012.

"For almost 25 years, this was hugely successful. It

was money well-spent," said Ramona McGee, a lawyer for the Southern Environmental Law Center.

Yet a 1990 federal recovery plan goal for 220 animals in the wild was never met.

Wolf numbers were bolstered by releases of captive-born pups and sterilization of coyotes that competed for space. But those approaches were halted in 2015 amid pressure from conservative politicians and landowners who deemed wolves a nuisance.

Conservationists contend the government abandoned proven techniques. "The biggest problem now is not the mortality, it's the lack of releases," said McGee, the lawyer.

Benjamin, the government field supervisor, said the wild red wolf population already was declining before pup releases stopped, declining to say whether political pressure influenced the decision.

Bill Rich, an eastern North Carolina landowner, complains wolves have made it harder to fight coyotes that kill deer on game land. A federal judge in 2014 banned night hunting of coyotes in red wolf territory because the canines are easily mixed up.

Rich says the reintroduction program is a failure and should be scrapped.

HURDLES IN THE SOUTHWEST

Federal managers face similar resistance in the Southwest, where ranchers see Mexican wolves as a threat to their livelihood. Wolves were found responsible for killing nearly 100 cows and calves last year. In March alone, livestock kills totaled 20, and ranchers say their calving rates are dropping because of the wolves.

Wolves also represent competition to outfitters and hunters seeking elk in southwestern New Mexico and Arizona.

Tom Klumker, a hunting guide in the Gila backcountry, fears the reintroduction program will push ranchers, hunters and rural residents from the land. □

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Amidst the chaos, Sara Bareilles finds a new voice

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Feeling "lost" after Donald Trump won the U.S. presidential election, Sara Bareilles found herself in a meditation class to help deal with the new American reality. "I felt like the world was on fire and I didn't have any tools to just cope with the idea that I was in a catastrophe," she said. "It was just like apocalyptic for me." The one thing she could do? Write songs. Her emotions, combined with navigating through an increasingly divided country, led to her latest album, "Amidst the Chaos." "For me the thing that always stays the most important is to feel that I'm being authentic and truthful in terms of what my messaging is," Bareilles said. "And I think I've gotten less afraid." "Chaos," released last month, marks her return to pop music after a nearly six-year hiatus. It follows 2013's "The Blessed Unrest," which



This March 26, 2019 photo shows musician Sara Bareilles posing for a portrait in New York.

Associated Press

boasted the successful single "Brave" and scored her a Grammy nomination for album of the year. During that gap, she wrote music for and later starred in the Broadway musical, "Waitress." She's earned two Tony Award nominations and released the theater album,

"What's Inside: Songs from Waitress," in 2015. Bareilles said theater "took over my whole life," and she wanted to write music for herself again. That's when she got in touch with iconic producer T Bone Burnett, who has won 13 Grammys and an Oscar.

"The algorithms may place her in more of a pop place with Katy Perry or something like that. (But) as an artist, as a songwriter, she's much closer to Dylan," Burnett said. Labeling "Chaos" a political album, however, is fair — and unfair. It's filled with

camouflaged love songs like "No Such Thing" and "If I Can't Have You."

"Those are basically direct love songs to the Obamas, which I feel like at some point I'm gonna get a cease-and-desist because I'm such a fan-girl," Bareilles said with a laugh. "I'm a proud believer in their messaging and their leadership and their grace. So I found that after the election, I was really heartbroken. I think a lot of people were." But don't be confused — "Chaos" is not anti-Trump music as there are no mentions of the president by name on the project. Instead, it features Bareilles speaking out more than ever.

"I'm 39 now, I turn 40 this year," she said. "When I look back on my life, I want to feel like I was outspoken for the things that really fall into my belief system and the causes and the people that I believe deserve advocacy." □

Exhibits about Ali, nature, motorcycles opening at Graceland

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A massive new exhibition and entertainment hall is set to open at Elvis Presley's Graceland in Tennessee with three museum-style exhibits, including one focused on the life and career of late boxing great Muhammad Ali. Graceland officials say the 80,000-square-foot (7,432-square-meter) Graceland Exhibition Center opens Saturday to guests visiting the Presley-themed tourist attraction in Memphis. The singer, actor and pop icon lived in Memphis until his death on Aug. 16, 1977.

Presley and Ali were known to be friends. Presley once gave Ali a custom-made robe in Las Vegas in the early 1970s. A replica of that robe is part of the Ali exhibit, along with photos of the heavyweight boxing and civil rights champion and other artifacts. Visitors will be able to hit a punching bag and learn the Ali shuffle from a video



Motorcycles sit in an exhibition hall at the Graceland tourist attraction on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

tutorial by the boxer, who died in June 2016. Also scheduled to open Saturday is an exhibit featuring a collection of motorcycles, ranging from basic to flashy, spanning decades of design. A third exhibit, called "National

Geographic Presents: Earth Explorers," allows visitors to learn about polar regions, oceans, rain forests, mountains, caves, and the African savanna. The exhibition hall is part of a yearslong expansion at Graceland, which al-

ready features Presley's home-turned museum, a 450-room hotel and an entertainment complex that holds a concert venue, Presley-related exhibits and restaurants. The new exhibition hall also includes a food hall and a full-service

bar designed to resemble the famous "Jungle Room" in Presley's former home.

Bringing the lives of Ali and Presley together at Graceland is fitting because of their impact on their professions, and on American and global culture, said Joel Weinshanker, managing partner of Graceland Holdings.

"They were pop culture revolutionaries. They were both born very poor," Weinshanker said. "They weren't emulating anyone, they weren't copying anyone. They were just getting out what was inside of them."

He said he hopes the new, \$20 million hall will attract more conventions to Graceland while bringing more large traveling exhibits to the city — including those that have nothing to do with Presley. "Space: An Out-Of-Gravity Experience," which features interactive exhibits about living and working in space, is scheduled to open Oct. 11 at the new hall. □

Asian, Asian American heroes to power Marvel comics series

By TERRY TANG
Associated Press

Asian superheroes — assemble.

Marvel Comics is giving ink to an unprecedented team-up of its mightiest Asian and Asian American heroes, also known as the new Agents of Atlas. Established icons like martial arts master Shang-Chi and newbies like Wave, the newest Filipino superhero, will team up in

a stand-alone, five-part comic book series starting this summer, the publishing giant told The Associated Press Thursday.

The roster of 10 super-powered pan-Asian champions made their debut as a team earlier this month in "The War of the Realms: New Agents of Atlas." That comic book is one piece of an ongoing saga involving several different groups across the Marvel universe,

including the Avengers, doing battle with a fire goddess. But the exclusively Asian limited series is set to roll out in August.

The man leading the heroic charge is veteran comic book writer Greg Pak. Pak is credited with ushering in a new era of Asian characters in co-creating Amadeus Cho, a Korean-American genius teen. The character first appeared in 2005. A decade later, he absorbed the Hulk's powers and started going by Brawn.

"It's always been my dream to do a team book using a bunch of Asian and Asian American heroes," said Pak, who thinks there's more appetite for representation with the success of the movie "Crazy Rich Asians." "There's literally never been a better time in my memory with more opportunities for doing work that specifically includes Asian and Asian American characters."

The decades-old character of Agent Jimmy Woo (portrayed by Randall Park in last year's "Ant-Man and the Wasp" movie) leads the pack as head of the revived secret protection society Atlas. Others getting in on the action include Brawn and Cindy Moon, who is the Korean American web-shooter Silk. Other recruits have only previously been seen in Marvel video games or web comics only available in Asian countries. Among them is Korea-born Luna Snow a.k.a. Seol Hee, a K-pop star who can manipulate frozen elements. There's also Aero and Sword Master, the products of creatives in China. Besides crime-fighting, the group will spend time doing things like eating dim sum or singing karaoke.

"That kind of diversity within diversity is amazing," said Pak, who is half-Korean and half-white. "No one character here has to represent all Asian-ness or Asian American-ness. That's a ridiculous demand for any character."

The rest of the "Atlas" creative team includes writer Jeff Parker and artists Nico



This image provided by Marvel shows the cover of the first issue in "Agents of Atlas," Marvel Comics' five-part standalone comic book series set to roll out in August 2019.

Associated Press

Leon and Carlo Pagulayan. In the series, the do-gooders find that someone has flipped a switch and created a "cross-Asian portal city" called Pan. In Pan, Asian neighborhoods get geographically scrambled and then stitched together into one city. So, the streets of Tokyo could be next to neighborhoods from Honolulu, Manila and some of Marvel's fictitious Asian countries.

Filipino American Loren Javier, 50, discusses Marvel comics on his "Castles, Capes & Clones" blog and podcast. There were few Asian characters in the lexicon he could look up to as a child, and many were often stereotypical mystics or man-servants.

"I love Marvel but I didn't necessarily see myself in the comics," said Javier, who recalls being teased by a classmate who called him "the enemy."

"Now, finally, I think about kids who are reading this

new generation of comics and heroes and getting to see themselves a little bit more," Javier said. "It's very powerful." Charlie Kiri-hara, who is half Japanese and half white, was thrilled by "New Agents of Atlas" and tweeted at Pak and Marvel pleading for more content. Kiri-hara, 26, said it was a welcome change to see characters that represented Asian and American cultures in "The War of the Realms."

"I read through the book and realized that was the first time I've read a comic book that was all these Asian characters and that wasn't manga written in Japan," Kirihiro said, referring to a genre of comics or graphic novels. "I want to see it have legs beyond this storyline."

That's Pak's wish as well. But it depends on how Marvel finds the fan response.

"If people buy the heck out of it, I'm happy to keep writing them," Pak said. □

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'Move along': Stormtroopers ready for Star Wars land crowds

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Disneyland's new Galaxy's Edge attraction promises to transport visitors to a new locale in the Star Wars universe, but any who overstay their visit might not catch their ride on the Millennium Falcon.

The theme park is expecting massive crowds when Galaxy's Edge opens May 31, and has detailed plans on how to accommodate guests or help them "move along" with the aid of Stormtroopers.

For the first three weeks, guests must have a reservation to enter and will be limited to four hours inside the immersive new land, the largest single-theme land inside a Disney park. It is spread out over 14 acres of rides and experiences, including shops selling personal droids, lightsabers, and Star Wars-appropriate food and drink.

A special wristband will identify a visitor's time win-



This rendering released by Disney and Lucasfilm shows people on the planned Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance attraction, part of Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.

Associated Press

dow, and once it expires, Disney said it will shut off access to key attractions and merchandise locations. Park employees dressed as Star Wars characters will ultimately ask visitors to make

their way toward one of the three exits so a new group can enter.

"There might be some First Order officers out there helping us or maybe some Stormtroopers asking peo-

ple to move along," said Kris Theiler, vice president of Disneyland park. "We'll employ the First Order maybe later in the reservation period if we need to."

It's just one example of the

lengths to which Disney has gone to make Galaxy's Edge look and feel like part of the Star Wars universe. It's designed as a grungy outpost on a distant planet. The marquee attraction is a massive replica of the Millennium Falcon, where guests can roam the ship's halls and engage in a dogfight with TIE Fighters.

The park has plenty of other, more subtle ways to manage crowd flow. Theiler said walkways were widened from 3 to about 6 feet in different areas, and stroller parking is available. Around 7,500 new parking spaces along with new parking lot entrances and toll booths were added. A new pedestrian bridge was also built to help avoid logjams. Disneyland declined to share the capacity limit for Galaxy's Edge.

The park will implement a virtual queue system after June 23, when the pre-reservation requirement and four-hour time limit are set to expire. □

Brandon Maxwell talks 'Project Runway,' undressing Lady Gaga

By GINA ABDY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Lada Gaga's multiple fashion reveals were a big moment at the Met Gala, and a sweet one for her friend Brandon Maxwell.

Maxwell was the guy by her side who peeled off all her layers on the pink carpet. He also created the look that had her transitioning from a huge pink gown down to black bra and panties, including glittery sky-high boots.

Dressing and undressing Lady Gaga is nothing new for Maxwell, on her style squad for years, but he admitted to some nerves over the Met Gala earlier this month.

"I, of course, was supernervous leading up but then I had to tell myself, you know, I have changed her under the stage in live performances many, many times and this is what we do," he told The Associated Press in an interview.

"Every time I looked over



This May 6, 2019 file photo shows Lady Gaga, right, and designer Brandon Maxwell at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating the opening of the "Camp: Notes on Fashion" exhibition in New York.

Associated Press

and saw her, I felt calm because I knew that we had each other. And we have always had each other," Maxwell said.

Lady Gaga has been a driving force in his life, a "stable friend that has been there to catch me whenever I felt like I am falling,

and that goes for many of the other best girlfriends in my life."

Maxwell said it's the women closest to him who motivat-

ed him to break out with a brand of his own.

"It is not about fame or glamour or money or being at the cool table," he said. "It is really, for me, about saying thank you."

Among Maxwell's latest projects is judging on a revived 17th season of "Project Runway," featuring Karlie Kloss as host and fellow womenswear designer Christian Siriano as the mentor.

"I love the contestants," Maxwell said. "What they are doing is hard. To make a dress in two days, like when you have a full team, it is incredibly hard, so I really think that speaks to the level of talent they possess." Maxwell has been at the helm of his own company for about four years. In addition to Lady Gaga, he's dressed Meghan Markle, Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Julia Roberts and a host of other celebrities. He can still relate to the contestants he's helping to judge on the Bravo series. □

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